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# INSIDE Wrestling

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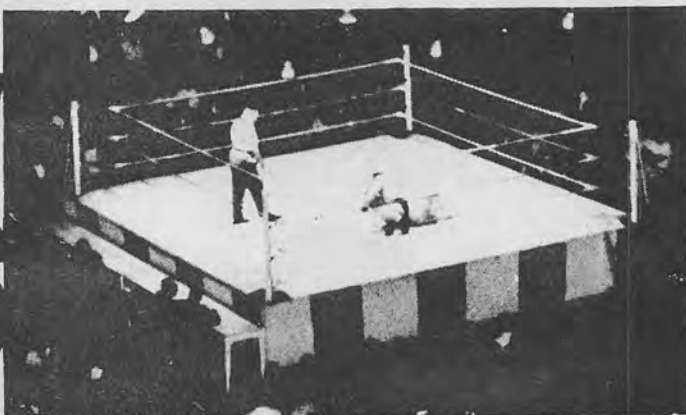
## THE BEST JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!



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## THE BUSINESS OF SPORTS

I thought the spirited debate between Stu Saks and David Rosenbaum ("Editor's Notebook" and "Behind The Dressing Room Door") in your June 1988 issue told the true story of wrestling today. Saks favored classic wrestling and no-nonsense presentations; Rosenbaum seemed far more sympathetic to Vince McMahon's "sports entertainment" in the WWF.

No matter which side you're on, it's time we accepted that sports, *all* sports, are becoming just a business to too many investors. Vince McMahon is just such an investor. His bottom line is not what goes on in the ring, but how it shows up on his ledger.

This does not necessarily make WWF wrestling bad, just glitzier. Saks, although obviously a greater fan of the NWA, AWA, and World Class, understood this. Rosenbaum's own editorial opinion is that WWF wrestling is every bit as good as the competition—competition McMahon blissfully ignores.

That issue is certainly for the fans to decide. But keep in mind, McMahon and his business interests will not go away.

AMY MILLER  
Stamford, CT

## SULLIVAN SUPPORTER

I have observed the career of Kevin Sullivan closely over the past few years. Kevin is an impeccable and crafty wrestler. He has an outstanding cognitive mental process that manifests itself through his erratic overt behavior. He is aggressive, hostile, and has a



great deal of drive. That is why he is on top in the NWA.

Sullivan's importance can be witnessed every time The Varsity Club—Mike Rotundo and Rick Steiner—wrestles. Under his intelligent influence, these men will in due time control every major belt in the NWA. In addition, they are sure to inflict an enormous amount of damage to other wrestlers' bodies.

When Sullivan and The Varsity Club have a confrontation with The Four Horsemen—and I believe it *will* happen soon—we all know who will come

Kevin Sullivan, an absolute genius according to reader Bill Allen, runs Barry Windham's head into the ring railing.

out on top: The Games Master and The Varsity Club. So let's give Kevin Sullivan the respect he so rightly deserves.

BILL ALLEN  
Little Rock, AR

## BRAVO, VON ERICHS

I am writing to you about the Von Erichs. I've been a Von Erich fan for years because they are good role mod-  
(Continued on page 58)

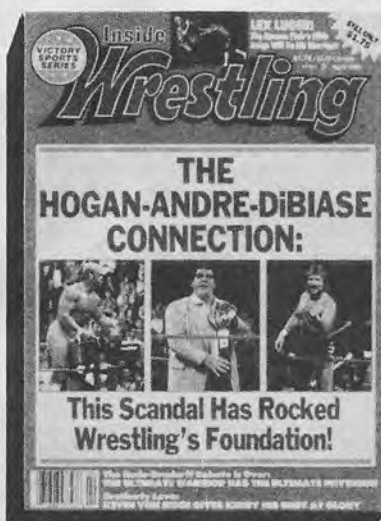


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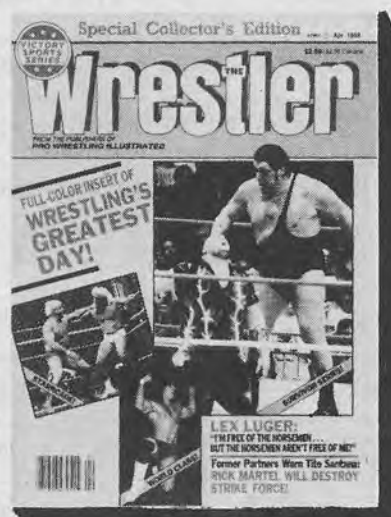
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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu  
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

A few issues back, I devoted this space to an explanation of the difficulties involved in getting warring wrestlers together for our popular feature, "One On One."

This month it was a breeze. In fact, this month it was a wrestler who came to us. Dusty Rhodes, seeking to establish his identity apart from The Midnight Rider, asked us if he could engage the masked man in conversation "so I could prove once and for all that I am above the kind of shenanigans that my detractors are accusin' me of."

After some heated discussion amongst the editors, it was decided that we would give Rhodes his forum, though I feel it is necessary to make one point: The supposed three-party hookup was arranged by Rhodes himself. We tried to attain proof from the phone company that Dusty was indeed talking to a second party rather than providing both sides of the conversation, but we could not.

It doesn't really matter, though. The burden of proof that Dusty and the Rider are the same man rests on the shoulders of James J. Dillon and his men. We all know the truth, anyway. And as bad as such an obvious violation of the rules damages the reputation of the sport, it's amazing to watch the master frustrate the men who have tried to take him down for years.

For "One On One," Dusty was either speaking to himself, or he was conversing with a tape recording, or he had set somebody up to do an imitation of his voice. Regardless, Dusty's purpose was twofold. He gained tangible evidence to present to the NWA if they ever call him on the carpet for his alleged violation of their bylaws.

And, probably more important to Dusty, he has made J.J. Dillon's life a little more miserable.



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# **'TOP SECRET'**

## **Behind the Dressing Room Door**

**by David  
Rosenbaum**

**W**ELL, BARRY WINDHAM has certainly set himself up for trouble. The Four Horsemen might live their lives in the fast lane, and their success can't be questioned, but these are the simple facts of the matter: Ric Flair is NWA World champion and Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are NWA World tag team champions. Where does that leave Barry Windham?

Here's a guy who, on several occasions, battled Flair to 60-minute time-limit draws and nearly won the belt. Here's a guy who, with Lex Luger, had already won the World tag belts from Anderson and Blanchard. The way I saw it, Anderson and Blanchard weren't going to get the belts back from Windham and Luger unless they did something about it.

So they did something about it.

It's standard Horsemen operating procedure. In early 1987, when Lex Luger came to the NWA, Flair and manager J.J. Dillon were worried. They knew that Luger, while he was Southern champion in Florida, almost defeated Flair three times. With his arrival in the NWA, Luger would get even more shots at Flair. So Dillon and Flair offered Luger a chance to join the Horsemen. It was an offer he couldn't—but should've—refused. After all, Luger is young and he can't be blamed for his mistakes.

But what's Windham's excuse? Here's a guy who's been in wrestling for seven years. He's been in the NWA, Florida, and the WWF. His father, Blackjack Mulligan, is a wrestling legend. Windham knows the business. He knows what goes on. He knows, first-hand, what the Horsemen are all

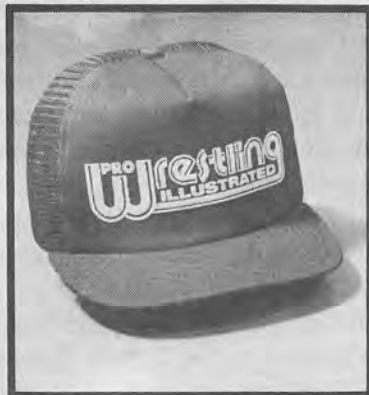
*(Continued on page 48)*



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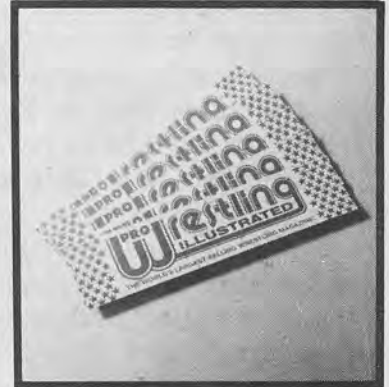
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**T**HE COLLECTIVE CRY of NWA fans is overwhelming in its intensity and crystal-clear in its meaning:

Bring The Rock 'n' Roll Express back to the NWA—now!

Back in the June 1988 issue of *Inside Wrestling*, we ran a story entitled, "Sign Our Petition: Bring The Rock 'n' Roll Express Back To The NWA!" Rick Morton and Robert Gibson had just left the federation, but the memories of their high-flying exploits, feuds, and four World title reigns were still fresh in the minds of the fans, over 30,000 of whom responded to the story by sending in the coupon provided in that magazine.

Many of those fans also included additional letters of comment with their ballots.



*The Rock 'n' Roll Express*

"I was a mess for two weeks," wrote Cathy Kinney of Greensboro, North Carolina. "I cried, and I cried, and I cried some more. The first time I went to the matches and realized I wasn't going to see Ricky and Robert wrestle that night, I cried again. I may be just 26 years old, but it was the most depressing thing I've ever experienced."

"Wrestling just isn't the same without Rick Morton and Robert Gibson," wrote Brenda Dadier of New Orleans. "I was thinking about traveling to Las Vegas to see them, because I'd heard that they were going to be at the Showboat Pavilion for an AWA television taping, but I couldn't get off work to go. I don't really like the AWA's style of wrestling, but I think Morton and Gibson will help change that; I'm going to be watching the AWA a lot more from now on."

"I'm sure Ricky and Robert know how much we all love them," wrote Carla Quinn of Baltimore, "and I'm sure that they would love to have stayed in the NWA. But I'm also sure that they had their own reasons for leaving, and that they wouldn't have left without good reason to. I have to respect their judgment, and I have to believe that they know what's best for them. I'm sending in my petition because I love Ricky and Robert, and I want them to know that, but I honestly don't think it will do much help in bringing them back."

Sadly for NWA fans, Carla is right.

"I feel kind of bad about this whole petition business," Rick Morton told me during a recent trip to Las Vegas. "I appreciate the support and the sentiment behind the petition, but we're in a position where we have to do what we have to do. Our years in the NWA were great;

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

heck, we won the World belts four times, and I'm sure we could have won 'em four more. But there comes a time when you just have to make a change to avoid stagnation, you know what I mean?"

"I feel bad about the petition, too," Robert Gibson added. "The NWA fans were always great to us. They supported us in our tag title drives, they supported Rick in his drive for [Ric] Flair's World title, they supported us through thick and thin. I can't

think of anything to say about the fans that isn't just great. But like Rick said, sometimes you've got to change, get a breath of fresh air."

"That doesn't necessarily mean that we hate the NWA or the fans there," Morton said. "See, people tend to make that mistake, that when you leave one place for somewhere else, it's because you didn't like the place you left. That's not true at all, at least it's not true in our case. But what people have to understand is that change is good sometimes. In this case, I think change is going to do us a *lot* of good. And who knows—someday we may very well be back in the NWA for World title number five—don't count us out!"

In the meantime, NWA fans can thrill to another high-flying, fast-moving team in the form of Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton—The Fantastics.

"It's tough, I understand that there's a certain level of resentment that we've walked into," Rogers told me recently. "But we're wrestling better and harder than we have in years, and I think that's going to be evident to the fans."

"Absolutely," Fulton said. "Hey—Rick and Rob are a great team, I don't want to take anything away from them. And I feel uncomfortable that people are comparing us to them. We shouldn't be compared. We're different teams with different styles, and I hope the fans recognize that. You know, me and Tommy wouldn't mind if Ricky and Rob came back—there's plenty of room here for all of us. Imagine some of the eight-man bouts we could have if we teamed with them against The Four Horsemen! Awesome!"

While Rogers and Fulton shun comparisons with Morton and Gibson, there will nevertheless continue to be comparisons; it's the nature of the fans and the nature of the sport to evaluate one man or team against another.

The petition coupons have been forwarded to the NWA, but no word has come down yet from the federation's offices as to whether serious overtures will be made to get the Express away from AWA rings and back in the NWA fold.

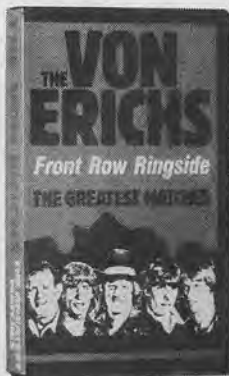
Meanwhile, NWA rings burn with the awe-inspiring action of Fantastics-Midnight Express bouts. And the AWA has gained about 30,000 devoted new fans. □





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- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.
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**THE VON ERICHS: A FAMILY ALBUM** is a magnificent history of the *entire* Von Erich family in words and pictures. Subtitled "Tragedies And Triumphs Of America's First Family Of Wrestling," the book chronicles Fritz, Doris, Kevin, David, Kerry, Mike, and Chris—plus rare photos of Jack—in over 100 black-and-white photographs and 32 pages of dazzling color photography. Many of these photos are from the Von Erich personal family scrapbooks (including many baby photos and school portraits) and have *never* been published anywhere—until now! This beautifully designed hardcover volume measures 8½x11 and is 128 pages in length. You'll be proud to add this to your personal library.



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# NAMES MAKING



THE FANTASTICS

**The Fantastics** defeated **The Midnight Express** on April 26 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to win the U.S. tag team championship. **Stan Lane** and **Bobby Eaton** had held the belts since May 16, 1987, when they beat **Barry Windham** and **Ronnie Garvin**.

This 40-minute classic was going the Express' way when **Bobby Fulton** turned around to grab Lane, who was standing outside the ring, and was kneed onto the arena floor by Eaton. Lane slammed Fulton's head into the steel railing, causing him to bleed profusely. When the action returned to the ring, Fulton was double-teamed and referee **Pee Wee Anderson** waved his hands as if he was stopping the match.

But **Tommy Rogers** told Anderson not to stop the match, and when Anderson and **David Crockett** conferred for a few moments, Fulton told them that he was able to continue. **Jim Cornette**, manager of the Express, was irate, but the champs regained control. Eaton threw Rogers out of the

ring and then slammed Fulton. Meanwhile, Rogers climbed to the top of the turnbuckle in the neutral corner. As Eaton stood up and turned around, Rogers delivered a stunning dropkick. Fulton then grabbed Eaton and small-packaged him for the pin.

Some more news of interest from the NWA: World champion **Ric Flair** is scheduled to battle **Lex Luger** on live pay-per-view TV July 10 when The Great American Bash tour moves to the Baltimore Arena. It will be the NWA's third appearance on PPV; the first was Starrcade '87 on Thanksgiving Day, the second was the Bunkhouse Stampede finals in January. The pay-per-view card is one of 40 dates on this year's Great American Bash tour, which begins June 26 in Orlando, Florida, and ends August 7 in Kansas City, Missouri.



RIC FLAIR

**Diamond Timothy Flowers** won the Canadian International Wrestling Association heavyweight title tournament on April 23 at Douglas College in

New Westminster, British Columbia. Flowers defeated **Doug McCall** in the first round, **Todd Olsen** in the second round, **J.R. Bundy** in the semifinals, and **Joey Jackson** in the final. All matches were held in a steel cage! . . . Former Stampede British Common-



GAMA SINGH

wealth champion **Gama Singh** is on a tour of South Africa . . . Stampede International tag champs **Bruce Hart** and **Brian Pillman**, a.k.a. **Bad Company**, are feuding with **The Cuban Assassins** . . . The Central States tag team title has been vacated. **Rick Patterson**, who held the belts with **Stevie Ray**, recently left the area.

As **Bret Hart** continues his feud with **Bad News Brown**, rumors persist that Hart will dump **Hart Foundation** teammate **Jim Neidhart** and form a team with his brother, Stampede North American champion **Owen Hart**. Although Owen has maintained a steady schedule of title defenses—he's currently fighting off **Steve DiSalvo**—and occasionally tours Ja-



# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

pan, the 1987 "Rookie of the Year" has made a few appearances in the WWF.

"I think everyone's seeing now what kind of wrestler my brother can be," said Owen, "and I'm definitely proud of him. When Bret was teaming with Neidhart all the time, all people ever saw was his rulebreaking side, but in my mind he's one of the best wrestlers in the world. I think we'd really make a great tag team, but for now, I'm just gonna have to wait and see." Bret was not available for comment, but WWF insiders say he's currently more concerned with beating Brown than joining his brother. We'll just have to wait and see.



TED DiBIASE

**Randy Savage** lost by countout to **Ted DiBiase**, but retained the WWF World championship in his first Madison Square Garden title defense ... **Jerry Lawler** recently defeated **Eddie Gilbert's** bounty hunter **Robert Fuller** in Memphis and won **Missy Hyatt** as his maid for a day! Gilbert has been sending several wrestlers after Lawler in an attempt to run "The

King" out of Memphis ... **Mr. Ito** won the World Organization Wrestling heavyweight title by defeating **Hacksaw Higgins** in the final of an April 18 tournament in Mobile, Alabama. **Mr. Olympia**, who held the WOW title, is now the WOW U.S. champion. WOW will tour Japan this summer.

In a stunning development, the Continental Wrestling Federation recalled all of its heavyweight singles titles and announced plans to declare one champion. CWF President **David Woods** and General Manager **Jack Curtis**



DUTCH MANTEL

asked Alabama champion **Tony Anthony**, Southeast champ **Lord Humongous**, and Continental champ **Dutch Mantel** to return their belts. A title tournament is currently being held in several Continental cities, with the final round scheduled for Birmingham, Alabama. In the meantime, the CWF will recognize AWA World champion **Curt Hennig** as its champ. Things should start heating up in the Continental area. **Shane Douglas**, **Terry Taylor**, and **Paul E. Dangerously** are all negotiating contracts with CWF



SHERRI MARTEL

officials, and **Wendell Cooley** is headed to the area. **Eddie Gilbert** is already in town, and **Missy Hyatt** will do a segment on the Continental TV show. Gilbert and Hyatt are also appearing on CWA cards.

**Pat Tanaka** and **Paul Diamond** are still the AWA World tag team champions, but they're under a torrid assault from **The Midnight Rockers** and **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**. The AWA has suddenly become a hotbed of tag team excitement! ... WWF women's champion **Sherri Martel** has been successful in her recent title defenses against **Desiree Peterson** ... **John Studd** is negotiating with WWF officials for a September return ... The AWA has scheduled three East Coast dates: June 23 in Elizabeth, New Jersey, June 24 in Jersey City, and June 25 in New Haven, Connecticut.

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □



# BACK ISSUES OF

Inside

# Wrestling

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**September 1974**/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

**November 1974**/Stories include: Garvin, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

**August 1975**/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

**September 1975**/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

**February 1976**/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

**March 1976**/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

**April 1976**/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

**August 1976**/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

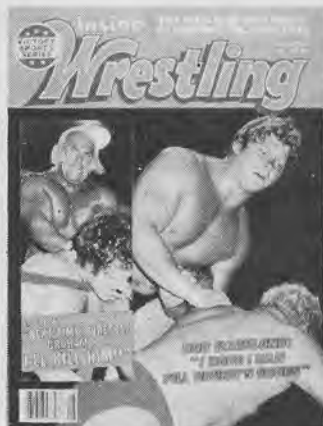
**September 1976**/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

**October 1976**/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

**November 1976**/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

**December 1976**/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

**January 1977**/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.



**AUGUST 1977**

**August 1977**/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

**September 1977**/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

**October 1977**/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

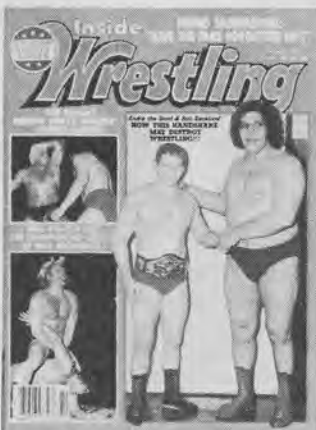
**November 1977**/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

**December 1977**/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

**March 1978**/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

**April 1978**/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

**August 1978**/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.



**OCTOBER 1978**

**October 1978**/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

**November 1978**/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

**December 1978**/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

**January 1979**/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.



**JANUARY 1979**

**February 1979**/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

**April 1979**/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

**May 1979**/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

**June 1979**/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

**July 1979**/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

**August 1979**/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

**September 1979**/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

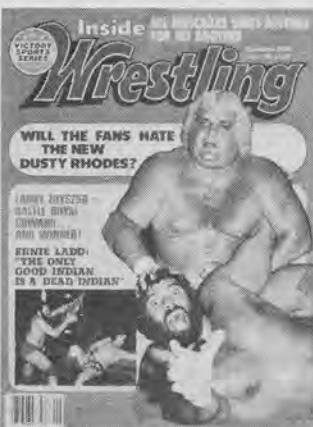
**February 1980**/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

**April 1980**/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

**May 1980**/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

**June 1980**/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

**August 1980**/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.



**SEPTEMBER 1980**

**September 1980**/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

**November 1980**/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

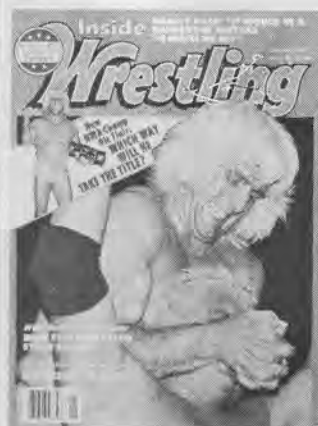
**January 1981**/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

**April 1981**/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

**May 1981**/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

**June 1981**/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

**September 1981**/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.



**JANUARY 1982**

**January 1982**/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humpdink.

**February 1982**/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

**March 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

**April 1982**/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

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**June 1982**/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

**July 1982**/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

**August 1982**/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

**September 1982**/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

**October 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

**November 1982**/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

**December 1982**/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

**February 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

**March 1983**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

**April 1983**/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

**May 1983**/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

**June 1983**/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

**July 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

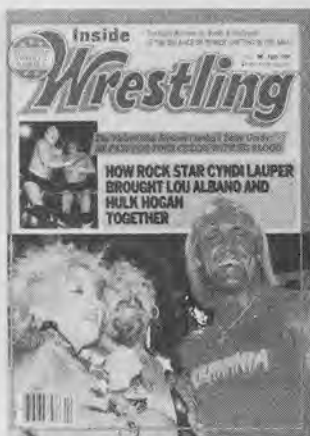
**August 1983**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.





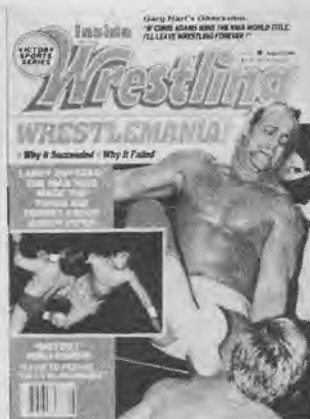
## SEPTEMBER 1983

**September 1983**/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.  
**October 1983**/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.  
**November 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.  
**December 1983**/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.  
**March 1984**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.  
**April 1984**/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.  
**May 1984**/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.  
**June 1984**/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.  
**July 1984**/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.  
**August 1984**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.  
**September 1984**/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.  
**October 1984**/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.  
**November 1984**/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.  
**December 1984**/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.  
**January 1985**/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.  
**February 1985**/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.  
**March 1985**/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.



## APRIL 1985

**April 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.  
**May 1985**/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.  
**June 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.  
**July 1985**/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.  
**August 1985**/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.



## AUGUST 1985

**September 1985**/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

**October 1985**/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

**November 1985**/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

**December 1985**/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

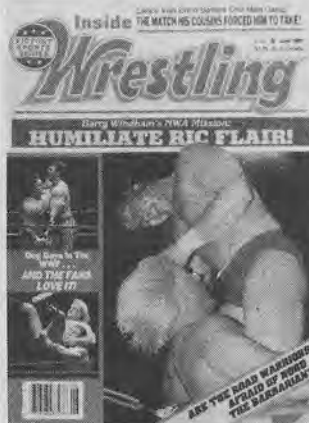
**January 1986**/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

**February 1986**/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

**March 1986**/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

**April 1986**/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

**May 1986**/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.



## JUNE 1986

**June 1986**/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.  
**July 1986**/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.  
**August 1986**/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.  
**September 1986**/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.  
**October 1986**/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.  
**November 1986**/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.  
**December 1986**/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.  
**January 1987**/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

**February 1987**/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

**March 1987**/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

**April 1987**/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

**May 1987**/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

**June 1987**/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

**July 1987**/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

**August 1987**/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

**September 1987**/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

**October 1987**/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

**November 1987**/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

**December 1987**/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

**January 1988**/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

**February 1988**/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.

**March 1988**/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

**April 1988**/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.

**May 1988**/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

**June 1988**/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

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THE

# INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

THE CHAMPION IS losing badly, his strength and resolve sapped by an aggressive foe. The crown he has worn for years is in jeopardy. His reputation as an indomitable ring legend is clearly threatened. Experience will not help him now: He is too old, too tired. His body is too weary from years of beatings.

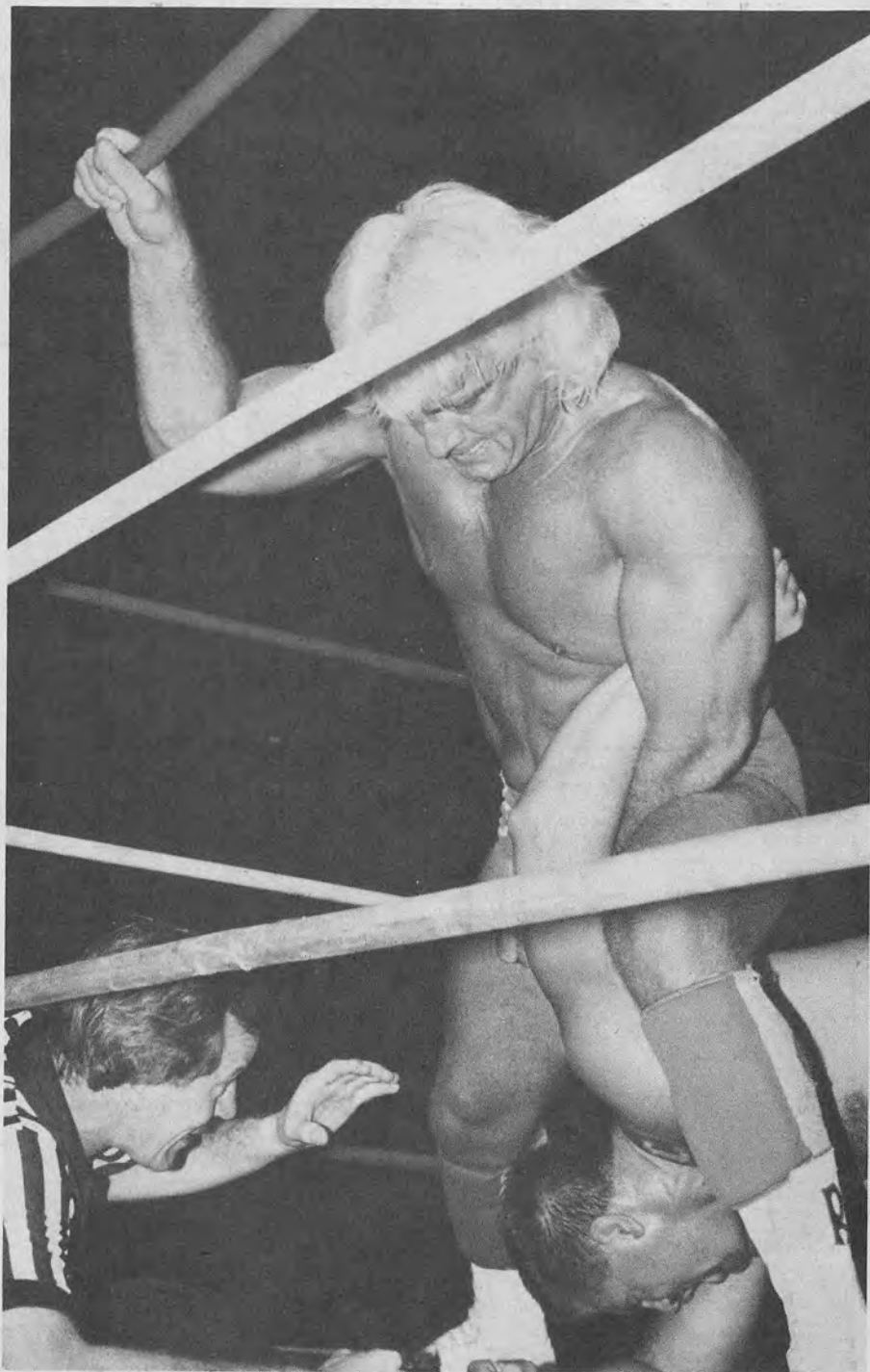
What should he do? Concede gracefully to the inevitable passage of time? Hurl his worn body at his opponent in a bold, final attempt to preserve his title—determined to leave the ring in a manner appropriate to his legend, in the fierce fires of competition?

Or he could scurry from the ring like a pigeon-hearted sloth, aware only that without the title-generated income he will be unable to maintain payments on his beachfront condominium.

Introducing, in the corner to my left, wearing gold trunks and possessing the heart of a pigeon, NWA World champion Ric Flair.

For years, Flair has eluded defeat by an uncanny and unprecedented ability to disqualify himself in the heat of battle. A scoop of hair here, an ill-concealed foreign object there, perhaps a closed fist in view of the referee. Myriad were the ways Flair could provoke

*(Continued on page 44)*



NWA World champion Ric Flair armbars Nikita Koloff. Eddie Ellner argues that Flair has lost his nerve. The proof: He's constantly getting himself disqualified.





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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

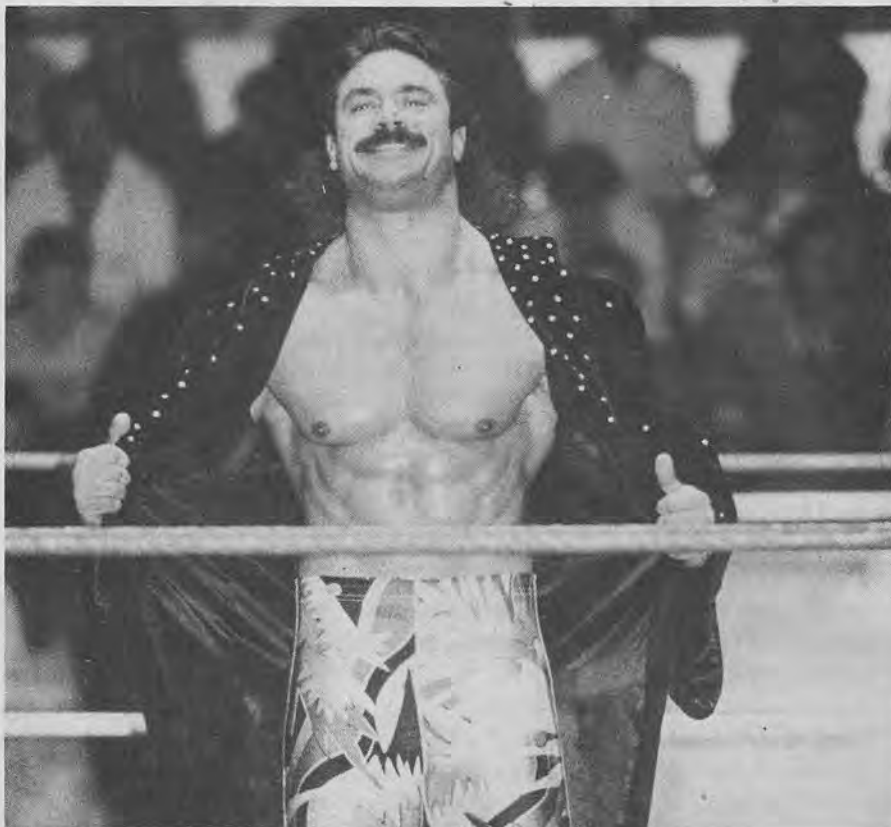
BY LIZ HUNTER

**W**E ALL KNOW that hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, but the rage of a jealous husband can smother the dark gods just as dramatically. In a love triangle reminiscent of a bad 1940s melodrama, "Ravishing" Rick Rude is making a public play for the wife of Jake Roberts. Roberts, responding with rage and anguish, has vowed to murder Rude on sight.

With Rude, the dominant trait has always been his conceit that every woman worships the ground on which he walks and the air that he breathes. Lately, he has obliged a tiny slice of his adoring public by selecting a lucky lady at random from the crowd and soul-kissing her deeply on the mouth. His latest attempted smooch was aimed squarely at the lips of Mrs. Jake Roberts. She was not pleased. She slapped Rude across the face before beating a hasty exit from the arena.

Despite the slap, Rude insists Mrs. Roberts is smitten. Although it can't be confirmed, one WWF source reportedly overheard him bragging to a friend at a nightclub. "Some gals insist on playing hard to get," he allegedly said. "That's all right. I could tell by the look in her eye she wants me. She's got lust painted all over face." The words, unattributed or not, are proof enough to me. Only Rude is so steadfastly cocky.

In his rulebreaking days, in the WWF as well as the NWA and Mid-South areas, Roberts was a media favorite for his willingness to speak with the press. Reporters



"Ravishing" Rick Rude's play for Jake Roberts' wife doesn't surprise Liz Hunter, who has seen Rude in similar situations and knows what kind of a man he is.

pressed for copy could always rely on Jake "The Snake" for the timely quote and side-splitting anecdote.

Roberts refuses to speak to the press about the incident. WWF sources claim never to have seen Jake so livid. "He's unapproachable," said an attendant in one locker room. "I asked him if he'd like an extra towel for his shower and he nearly took my head off. Jake's not like that. He's always prided himself as being a regular guy. If nothing was going on, he'd stop and have a beer with the boys, spin some stories, y'know, *normal* stuff.

"But Rude is driving him nuts," the attendant continued. "I've been following Jake's career for a lot of years, and I've never seen him so intense. He's gonna bust a gut!"

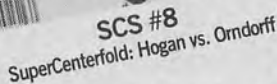
The most likely gut Roberts will bust belongs to Rude. In my own career I have interviewed Rick Rude at least a dozen times. Each interview finds him more pompous, egotistical, and overbearing than the last. He can also be, in rare moments, exquisitely charming and gracious, a gentleman of rare breeding: dark, dangerous, and handsome. Because

(Continued on page 56)



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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## **"TWO TON" HARRIS**

George "Two Ton" Harris was one of the toughest big men in the Mid-Atlantic region during the '60s. His "big splash" dive is considered to be one of the most effective finishing maneuvers in the history of wrestling.

Harris has retired from active competition, but stays close to the sport by working as a ring attendant along with Klondike Bill, another all-time great big man, at many National Wrestling Alliance matches.



## **MIGUEL PEREZ SR.**

Perez, perhaps best known as the partner of the legendary Antonino Rocca in the late '50s and early '60s, currently trains and advises his son, current World Wrestling Council Puerto Rican champion Miguel Perez Jr.

The elder Perez was recently honored during a major WWF card, and he still works out enough to occasionally wrestle WWF bouts. "Once wrestling is in your blood, it is there to stay," said Perez.



## **DENNIS CONDREY**

This hated member of the original Midnight Express has been taking time off to get in some hunting near his home in Boulder, Colorado. He also has been seen at the vacation residence of manager Paul E. Dangerously in Southern France.

He reportedly is negotiating to reunite with his former partner, Randy Rose, to continue the rulebreaking team that until recently held the AWA World tag team championship.



## **RENE GOULET**

This talented Frenchman was a co-holder of the WWF tag team belts with Karl Gotch in 1971. Goulet, who possessed one of the sport's best dropkicks, was also the darling of mat fans in Canada, Georgia, and Florida in the late '60s.

His penchant for conditioning enabled him to remain a top contender in various federations through the '70s. Today, Goulet is employed by the WWF as a security official, but still dons the tights on occasion.



# INSIDE WRESTLING

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## CAPSULE PROFILE

**B**RUTUS BEEFCAKE STARTED appearing at ringside during WWF matches in 1984 (*"People were saying 'Who the heck is this guy?'"*) ... Immediately recognizable due to his strut and resemblance to a Chippendale dancer (*"Always have to be different"*) ... Trademark move was the flying kneesmash (*"Time for the three-count when you get hit with the kneesmash"*) ... Took on Johnny Valiant as his manager later that year (*"The best possible choice; a great manager when he wants to be"*) ... With Valiant's help, seriously injured newcomer Hillbilly Jim's leg, putting him out of action for eight months (*"The sweaty hick didn't know what he was doing"*) ... They eventually revealed that Beefcake's hometown was San Francisco (*"There was no need to keep the poor fans in suspense any longer"*) ... Wrestled David Sammartino to a double-disqualification at the first WrestleMania in 1985 (*"His daddy Bruno couldn't keep his nose out of the ring"*) ... Formed the "Dream Team" with Greg Valentine (*"The best team in wrestling for a long, long time"*) ... Combination won the WWF World tag team title from Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo in Philadelphia on August 24, 1985, when Valiant rubbed his lit cigar in Windham's face ... A seven-month title reign ended

## BRUTUS BEEFCAKE



Brutus Beefcake hiptosses Danny Davis. Despite his flamboyant ring attire, Beefcake is starting to get more and more respect for his wrestling ability.

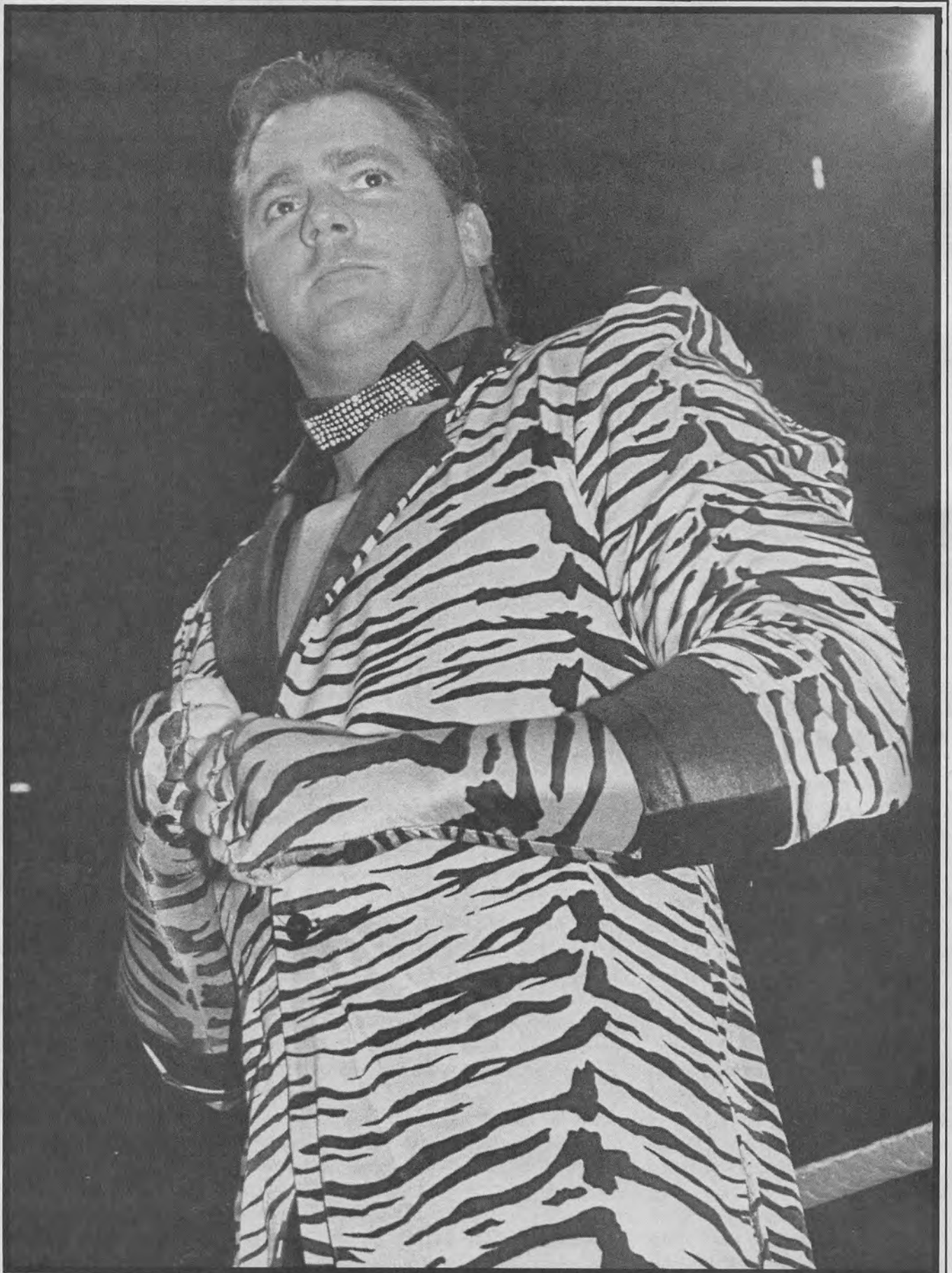
with a loss to The British Bulldogs at WrestleMania II (*"Those dirty dogs lucked out completely"*) ... Beefcake and Valentine had a falling-out during their victory over the Rougeaus at WrestleMania III (*"Valentine cared more about himself than the team"*) ... Later on the card, Beefcake completed his conversion to fan favorite by helping the retiring Roddy Piper cut Adrian Adonis's hair (*"Ha, ha! That fat pig finally paid his dues"*) ... Liked cutting hair so much that he started calling himself "The Barber," bringing large scissors to the ring with him and sporting even more outrageous ring attire (*"Cuttin' and struttin' is the thing to do"*) ... Began feuding with the

"New Dream Team" of Valentine and Dino Bravo (*"They'll never equal the greatness of the first 'Dream Team'"*) ... Takes credit for running Johnny V out of the WWF (*"That coward really turned into a lousy manager"*) ... Defeated The Honky Tonk Man by DQ at WrestleMania IV, though he didn't win the Intercontinental title (*"The Barber' is the real champion, not that greaseball Honky Tonk"*) ... As consolation, cut Jimmy Hart's hair (*"The wimp needed a trim anyway"*) ... Has now emerged as one of the top contenders to both WWF titles (*"No matter who you wrestlers out there are, you're gonna have a hard time with The Barber'"*)





## **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**



# THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



## Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

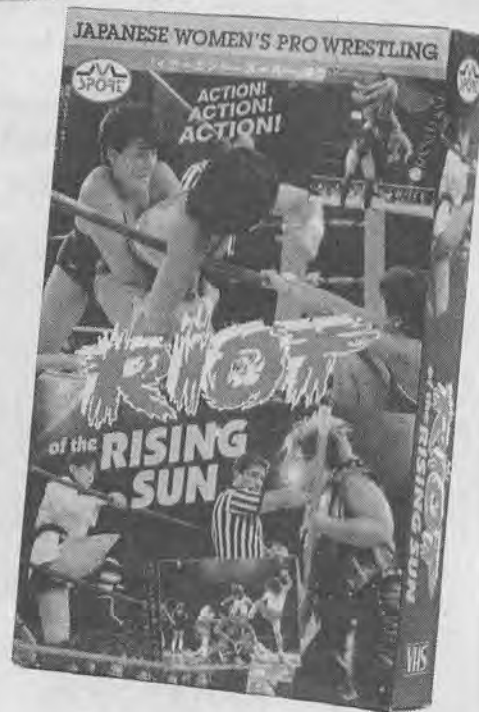
- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

# OF THE YEAR!

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## Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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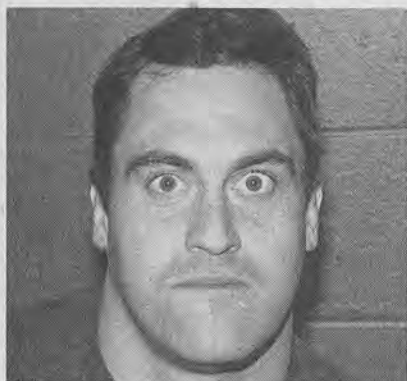


# NEWS FROM THE

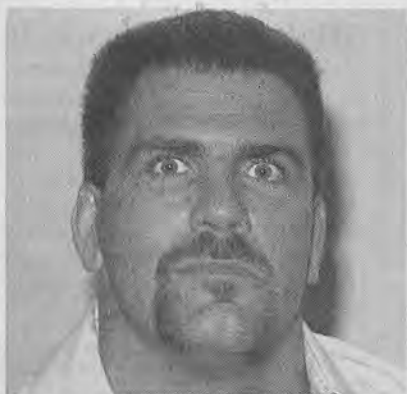
If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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## BALTIMORE, MD By Mike Messier



**MIKE ROTUNDO  
vs.  
NIKITA KOLOFF**



Koloff returned to the Baltimore Arena after his "Just Say Nyet" tour in an effort to regain the NWA TV title. Nikita had Rotundo in a strong headlock at the beginning of the bout, but the champ retaliated with a foreign object. Rotundo then dominated his larger opponent with rulebreaking and scientific maneuvers. With encouragement from the sellout crowd, Koloff was on his way to victory, but the time limit expired resulting in a draw decision.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Chris Champion drew with Tiger Conway Jr. ... Rick Steiner & Kevin Sullivan beat Kendall Windham & Ricky Santana ... The Fantastics beat The Midnight Express by DQ ... The Powers of Pain & Ivan Koloff beat The Road Warriors & Dusty Rhodes by DQ ... Ric Flair pinned Sting.

## MILAN, ITALY By Roberto Pastore



**ULTIMATE WARRIOR  
vs.  
HERCULES HERNANDEZ**



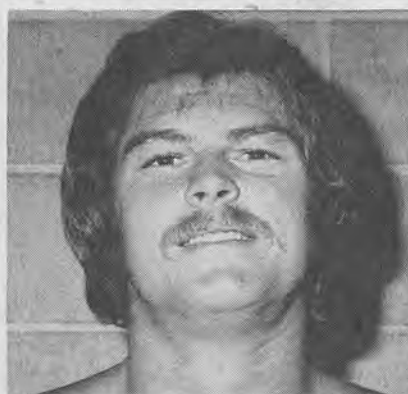
The Warrior and Hercules met at The Palatrussardi six days after their bout at WrestleMania IV. Surprisingly, Bobby Heenan, Hercules' manager, was absent. The Warrior clotheslined Hernandez, executed a "gorilla" press-slam, then attempted a big splash, but Hercules bent his knees and smashed his rival in the chest. Then Hercules applied the full-nelson, but the Warrior broke it. Hercules then forearmed Warrior in the back. The match continued outside the ring until both men were counted out.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Demolition defeated Paul Roma & Jim Powers ... Brutus Beefcake beat Greg Valentine ... Koko B. Ware pinned Ron Bass ... Steve Lombardi defeated Brady Boone ... Andre the Giant pinned Hacksaw Duggan.

## MEMPHIS, TN By Andrew Minton



**JERRY LAWLER  
vs.  
ROBERT FULLER**

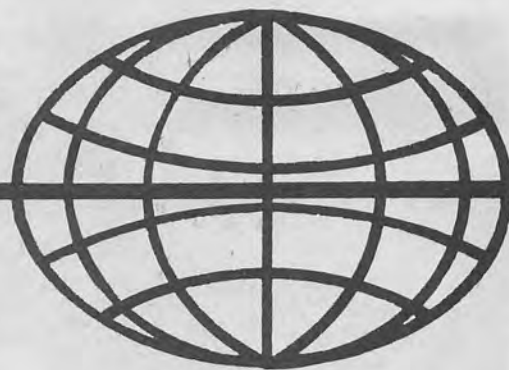


The stipulation for this match held that if Lawler won, he would get Missy Hyatt as his maid for a day. Fuller was acting as Eddie Gilbert's latest bounty hunter. As Lawler was dominating the match, Missy got up on the ring apron to distract referee Jerry Calhoun. Fuller, meanwhile, started choking Lawler with a chain and appeared to have knocked him out. But as Fuller argued with Kenny D, Lawler's adviser for the night, Lawler rolled him up for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Bruise Brothers won a tag team battle royal ... Jeff Jarrett beat Ken Wayne by disqualification ... Brickhouse Brown & Gary Young defeated Scott Steiner & Billy Travis by DQ ... The Cuban Assassins beat Scotty "The Body" & Ricky Nelson ... The Bruise Brothers defeated Doug & Tommy Gilbert.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## PONTIAC, MI By Donald McDougall



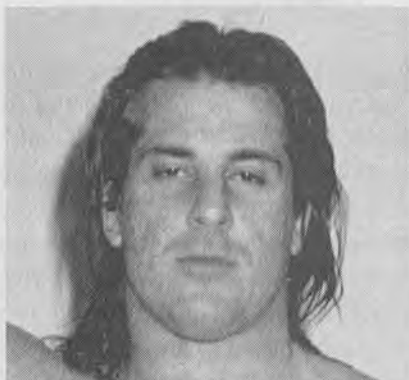
**THE HONKY TONK MAN  
VS.  
BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**



Jimmy Hart was banned from the Silverdome for Honky Tonk's Intercontinental title defense, so, except for Peggy Sue, Honky Tonk was on his own. As the two traded blows, Peggy Sue tried to interfere. Eventually, Beefcake chased her and was counted out. Brutus finally caught up with Peggy Sue and revealed "her" to be Jimmy Hart in drag—wearing a bra!

**OTHER BOUTS:** Bret Hart drew with Bad News Brown ... Andre the Giant defeated Hacksaw Duggan by countout ... The Rougeaus beat The Killer Bees ... Rick Rude pinned Don Muraco.

## CALGARY, ALBERTA By Matthew Danoy



**STEVE DiSALVO  
VS.  
JASON THE TERRIBLE**



DiSalvo dominated most of this match by bearhugging Jason, but Jason was able to come back and win by countout. After the bout, DiSalvo tried to press Jason over his head, but he couldn't do it. Instead, he dumped Jason over the top rope and onto the timekeeper's table. DiSalvo then left the ring and dropped Jason on the table several more times. It was later announced that DiSalvo had been suspended from competition indefinitely.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Johnny Smith pinned Biff Wellington ... Makhan Singh & Jerry Morrow beat Suni War Cloud & Mr. Hito ... Owen Hart and Makhan Singh were both counted out ... Chris Benoit defeated Great Gama.

## FORT WORTH, TX By Sam Moore



**KEVIN VON ERICH  
VS.  
BUDDY ROBERTS**



This latest battle in the Von Erich-Freebird war saw Roberts keep the advantage through most of the match. This surprised many ringside observers, who thought that Kevin would easily outclass the Freebird. Kevin finally fulfilled the fans' expectations at the end. Roberts threw Kevin into the ropes and attempted a backdrop, but Kevin managed to roll him up for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Kerry Von Erich & Michael Hayes defeated Terry Gordy & Iceman Parsons by disqualification ... Angel of Death pinned Jeff Raitz ... Terry Taylor defeated Wild Bill Irwin ... Chris Adams beat Black Bart by DQ.





# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**MEMPHIS, TN:** You're never too old to learn something new, and I learned something on a recent trip down here: Never rent a car and leave it in the WMC-TV Channel 5 parking lot during a CWA TV taping. I learned my lesson the hard way: \$1,300 in damage, billed to my employer, and he's not too happy about it. Yes, folks, that was *my* car Eddie Gilbert and Jerry Lawler fought on when their brawl went from the WMC studio to the hallways to the parking lot. They dented the hood, smashed the windshield, and scratched the front fender. Believe me, the rent-a-car people (whom I won't identify) were a little upset. Actually, I had no idea what happened to the car until I went outside afterward. I

was just sitting in the studio like everyone else and only saw the first part of the brawl. Randy Hales, a CWA official, told me a few moments later that they were fighting in the parking lot, but by the time I got out there, they had already broken it up. I never even thought to check the car, but when I left the studio after the taping and saw the car, it was easy to put two and two together. The way things are going, that rented car might have suffered the least damage in this feud. Lawler and Gilbert are out to kill each other, and they're not going to be happy until the job is done. This is one of the most vicious feuds I've ever seen, and it's not surprising that it's going on in Memphis.



**LAWLER & GILBERT ABUSE MATT'S CAR**

**CAGUAS, PUERTO RICO:** It's been ages since I've been here. As usual, I couldn't wait to get out of here as soon as the plane landed. I've heard people talk about what a beautiful place Puerto Rico is and how great the beaches are, but I'm not one for frying my skin and I don't see what's so great about a 95-degree slum where you can't drink the water without fear of infection. I come down here for the wrestling and *only* the wrestling. I'm not interested in gambling—that's a vice I gave up long ago after a tough battle with a \$50 blackjack table—and if you don't gamble and don't like the sun, this place can become a real hole. But if you like wrestling, it's not a bad place to be, because these people here love the sport. They especially love Carlos Colon, who's as much a Puerto Rican legend as Iris Chacon (although Colon might be a little thinner around the hips). Colon has had a virtual lock on the World Wrestling Council Universal title for the past few years, but he was beaten for the belt by archival Hercules Ayala on February 13. To the delight of the fans in Caguas, however, Colon regained the title on April 19. During the match—and it was an absolute war—Ayala's manager Chicky Starr tried to interfere. But WWC Vice President



**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**



**CARLOS COLON**

Joe Pedicino held back Starr while Colon completed the pin. Colon, by the way, isn't going to have it easy as champion. Dan Spivey, a big guy who can wrestle but didn't have a chance to prove it in the WWF, has made it known that he's after Colon. He's scheduled for a title match on May 8, which I'd like to see. I'd like to see it in Chicago or New York, but unfortunately it's going to be in Puerto Rico, and I'm not coming back here for another couple of years.

**DALLAS, TX:** Thought you might be interested in a conversation I had with John Keaton, the referee who officiated the March 25 World Class title match when the lights went out and Iceman Parsons beat Kerry Von Erich for the belt. Frankly, I don't understand how the decision could stand when the

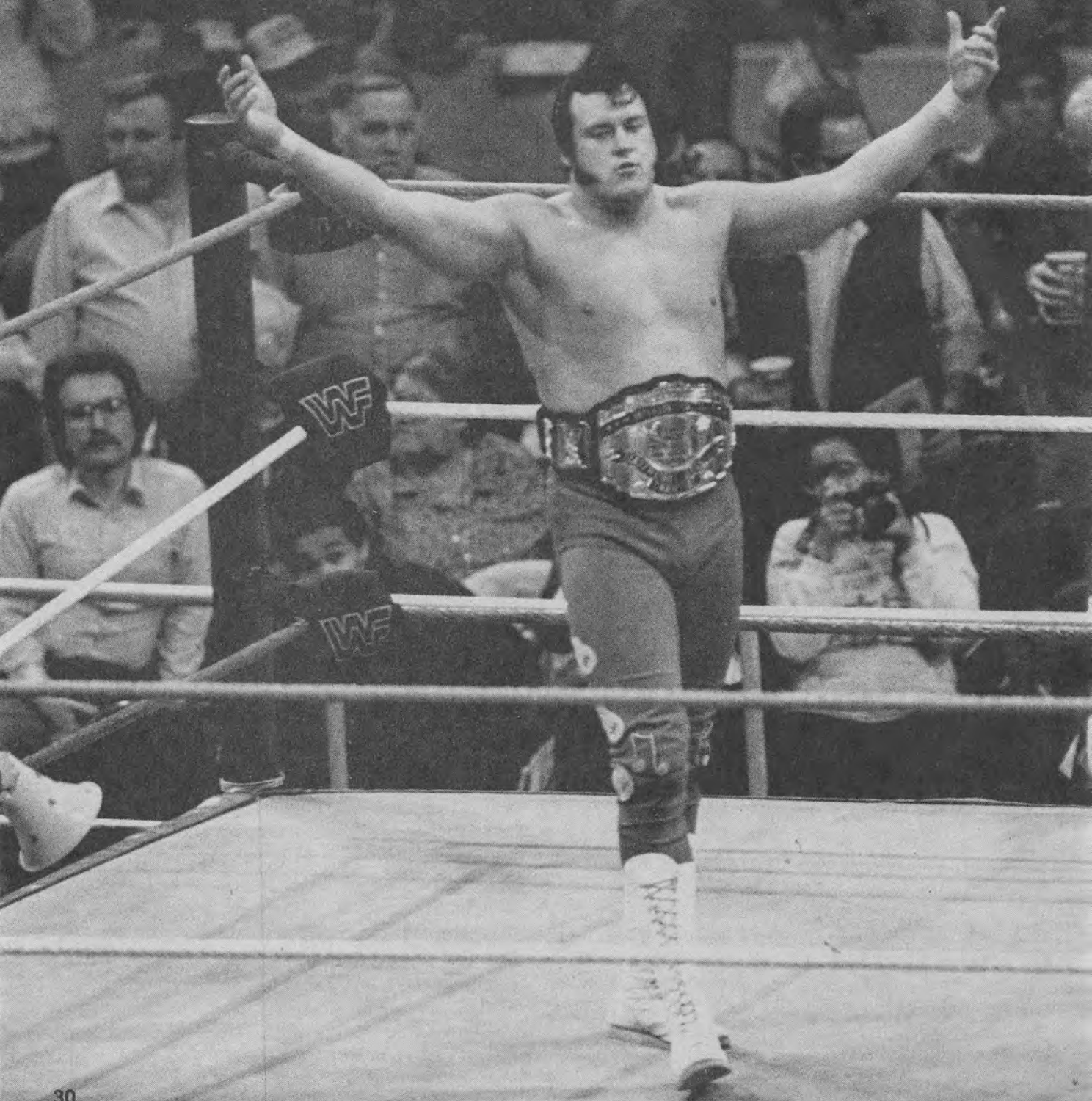
lights in the arena were off for a good 20 seconds. If the lights went out in a stadium during a baseball game, would they keep on playing? Of course not. So why did Keaton allow the match to continue? Maybe he was confused—and understandably so—but that doesn't mean he couldn't declare the match a no-contest once order was restored. Well, I asked Keaton about it and here's what he said: "From what I could tell, there was no outside interference during the time the lights were out. When the lights came back on, Kerry Von Erich was lying in the middle of the ring. It's safe to assume that Iceman Parsons also couldn't see anything when the lights went out, so I figured they simply had a collision in mid-ring and Kerry got the worst of it. There's nothing in the rules that stipulates what must be done in this situation. There was no reason to stop the match and the pin appeared valid. I have made my report to World Class officials and can say nothing more about the matter." Sorry, Keaton, but I'm not buying it. In my opinion, Keaton is an incompetent. He should be fired by World Class officials and the decision should be reversed. Common sense must prevail.

**JACKSONVILLE, FL:** Barry Windham is a member of The Four Horsemen. Talk about unlikely occurrences! Wasn't it only a little more than a year ago that Windham warned Lex Luger *not* to join the Horsemen? Wasn't Windham feuding with Ric Flair and the rest of the Horsemen? Isn't Windham's main goal the NWA World heavyweight championship, which Flair holds? Hasn't he had a favorable relationship with the fans for years? Enough of these impertinent questions. I'm starting to remind myself of this moron who once worked for the old *Daily Mirror* in New York (thank goodness that old rag is gone). It's hard to believe that Windham is with the Horsemen, especially since he really doesn't need them. And it's also hard to believe that he was drawn in by J.J. Dillon, a first-rate conniver who's only out for his own gain. I always thought Windham was an intelligent man. How ironic that Luger is out of the Horsemen and Windham is in. How sad, too. □



*Only Two Months To Go . . .*

# **AND THE HONKY TONK MAN IS THE GREATEST I-C CHAMP EVER!**





**They said he'd never win the Intercontinental title, but he did. They said he wouldn't hold it long, but he has. Now, as he approaches his first anniversary as champion, the record for the longest I-C title reign is within his grasp. If he accomplishes that task, who will be able to deny him his place in history?**

**T**HE HISTORY OF the WWF Intercontinental championship is the history of highly skilled champions: Pedro Morales, Don Muraco, Greg Valentine, Tito Santana, Randy Savage, Rick Steamboat. They are men who pride themselves on a devotion to knowing the technical aspects of their sport. They'll brawl, but fisticuffs are not integral to their respective successes.

Then there's The Honky Tonk Man who, as WWF commentator Gorilla Monsoon might say, wouldn't know a wristlock from a wristwatch. The man from Memphis appears to work more on his guitar playing than he does on his wrestling. Yet this is the same man who is approaching the first anniversary of the start of his Intercontinental title reign, June 2, 1987.

Why has this man, a man who in the past has never before been mentioned among the greats, been champion for so long? The main reason is obvious: Jimmy Hart. The manager is notorious for interfering in his men's matches. In bouts with Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, Rick Steamboat, and Jake Roberts—men with far more skill than he—Honky Tonk has been saved from certain defeat by Hart's use of his megaphone as a weapon.

For all his strutting and bragging, Honky Tonk does have a great deal of ring intelligence, if that's the word you want to use to characterize his knack for knowing when to bail out of the ring to give his body a respite from the punishment he must absorb. Com-



Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man pulls Rick Steamboat toward him during a lumberjack match.

bine that quality with the presence of his manager and a hefty dose of luck, and you can see why Honky Tonk has held the title for nearly a year.

The record title reign of 14 months is held by Morales, who defeated Muraco on November 23, 1981, at New York's Madison Square Garden; he lost to Muraco at the same arena on January 22, 1983. Throughout his tenure as champ, Morales defended the belt with honor, a characteristic unknown to Honky Tonk. But if, on the morning of August 2, Honky Tonk wakes up as Intercontinental champion, he will have completed the longest I-C title reign ever. That may be a slap in the face to Morales, but it would be a tremendous accomplishment nonetheless.

What would such a feat mean for Honky Tonk and for wrestling?

"It would mean that Honky Tonk is the greatest Intercontinental champion of all time," said Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum, who has been one of Honky Tonk's biggest supporters. "Look at the facts. He'll have had the belt longer than anybody else, he's beaten all the top contenders, including Hulk Hogan, and he's also the most appreciative of the fans. They simply don't realize how much Honky Tonk loves them."

"In addition," Rosenbaum cited, "he's more skilled than he appears to be. 'He has all the moves he needs to win. The 'shake, rattle, 'n' roll' is one of the most effective finishing maneuvers in the sport. How many wrestling moves does Hulk Hogan have? Not many, and he was World champion for four years. I think we in the press have been too quick to condemn The Honky Tonk Man. So he likes to sing and dance. What's wrong with that? Randy Savage likes to sing and dance, too; you just don't read about it."

"Put it this way," said a friend of Honky Tonk's who wished to remain anonymous, "Savage is the World champion. That means he's the best, right? Then how come he couldn't beat Honky Tonk in over six months of title shots? The only answer is that Honky's the greatest wrestler in the WWF. There's no other conclusion. Nobody will give him his proper due because they're all so jealous."

Jealousy aside, Honky Tonk  
(Continued on page 46)



**The  
Rumors  
Fly:**

# **MISSY HYATT IS READY TO DUMP EDDIE GILBERT!**



She did it once before with John Tatum, and now it looks like she's ready to do it again. Missy Hyatt, wrestling's blonde bombshell, seems to be on a manhunt—and there's nothing Eddie Gilbert can do about it



**R**EMEMBER JOHN TATUM. Beware, Eddie Gilbert. Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.

Marriage is a contract, but some say that contracts were meant to be broken. *To have and to hold, to love and to cherish, in sickness and in health . . .* until Missy Hyatt decides she's had enough of you. That ring on her finger might be valuable, but it's emotionally worthless. Especially when Scotty "The Body" walks into the room.

The husband really *is* always the last to know.

On the streets of Memphis, people are whispering; some of their whispers have become shouts, but Eddie Gilbert doesn't hear them. Somebody ought to remind him about what Missy did to John Tatum.

Give John a call, Eddie, and he'll tell you about the heartbreak Missy Hyatt is capable of rendering. He knows.

It all happened less than two years ago. The love affair between

Tatum and Missy was the hottest item in wrestling, but then Gilbert entered the picture. Missy never had a very long attention span, and she was certainly distracted by Gilbert. They formed Hot Stuff and Hyatt Incorporated (or Hyatt and Hot Stuff, depending on whether you were talking to Eddie or Missy). Before anybody knew it, Tatum was out of the picture and Hyatt was walking around on Gilbert's arm.

She quickly forgot about Tatum, but he didn't forget about her. The mere mention of Missy's name still pulls at Tatum's heartstrings. He disappeared from the UWF, then disappeared from wrestling entirely before resurfacing in Wild West last summer. "He never mentions her anymore," said Tatum's close friend Jack Victory, "but I can tell he thinks about her. That pig almost ruined his life."

Gilbert, meanwhile, acted like he had just won a prize. He and Missy got married last summer, but even before the wedding

there were signs that Hyatt would dump Gilbert in an instant if the right offer came along. At one point, she even accepted an offer as commentator in the WWF, which would have put her far away from Gilbert. Although things didn't work out in the WWF, Hyatt, once again, was easily taken away from the man she supposedly loved.

From an outsider's viewpoint, however, their marriage was going fine—until early April. That's when Missy's eyes went wandering. By that time, the entire Gilbert family—Eddie, Missy, brother Doug, and father Tommy—had set up shop in the Championship Wrestling Alliance and ignited a war against Jerry Lawler.

Enter Scotty "The Body."

Gilbert had offered \$25,000 to any man who could get rid of Lawler, but AWA World champion Curt Hennig agreed to do the job for free. Lawler wrestled Hennig on April 4 in Memphis, (Continued on page 50)



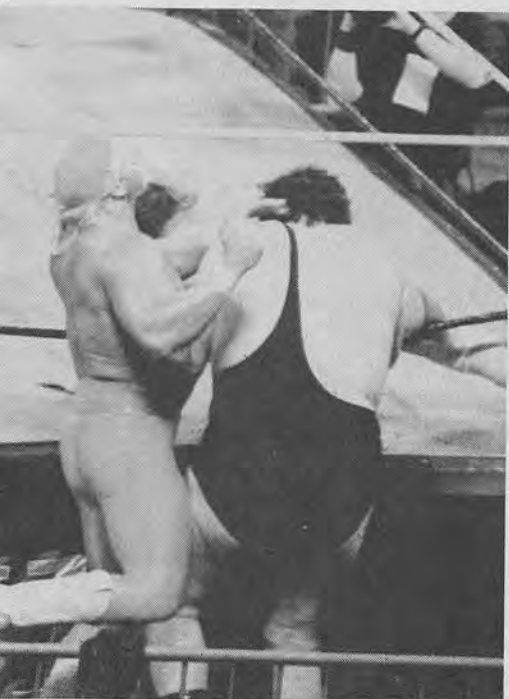
Missy Hyatt is horrified by the injuries that Eddie Gilbert, aided by his brother Doug, sustained in a match against Jerry Lawler (left). Missy and Eddie's homelife seems to be cozy (above), but is there something wrong that neither one will talk about?

Photos by Sam Lowe





# WHAT RANDY SAVAGE MUST DO TO ESCAPE THE SHADOW OF HULK HOGAN



Hulk Hogan saves Randy Savage from Andre the Giant's wrath. Is Hogan being too much of a friend to Savage?

*For over four years, Hulk Hogan ruled the WWF and, some say, all of wrestling. Now that Randy Savage is World champion, can he escape from the giant shadow that is cast by "The Hulkster's" legend?*

By Dave Rosenbaum

WHEN RANDY SAVAGE, after years as one of the most hated men in wrestling, made his stunning change from rulebreaker to fan favorite, Hulk Hogan was there. When Ted DiBiase, Virgil, and Andre the Giant attacked Savage on *Saturday Night's Main Event*, Hogan was there. And when the "Macho Man" won the WWF's World title tournament at WrestleMania IV, Hogan was there once again.

It seems like Randy Savage can't do anything without Hogan there to help him.

Certainly, that's the impression one gets from watching the incredible events that have marked the past year of Savage's career.

In the first instance, Savage was being brutally attacked by The Honky Tonk Man when Elizabeth ran back to the dressing room and emerged with "The Hulkster." Hogan not only saved Savage from serious injury, he assured that Savage would be cheered by the fans for





Hogan wields a chair, Savage has his belt, and Elizabeth watches proudly in the aftermath of the "Macho Man's" WWF World title victory. Savage might have won even if "The Hulkster" hadn't interfered.

some time to come. In the second instance, Savage was in danger of suffering a serious injury that could have forced him out of the title tournament, but Hogan saved the day. Finally, at the tournament, Hogan's outside interference led to Savage's victory.

Each time, Hogan came to the aid of a friend in need. Each time, Savage was grateful for Hogan's interference.

But maybe Savage would have been better off if he had absorbed a more brutal beating at Honky Tonk's hands. Maybe he could have fought his way out of trouble when DiBiase, Virgil, and Andre attacked him. And maybe he would have somehow escaped from DiBiase's sleeperhold

and gone on to win the World championship.

Maybe.

If so, Savage could have shown that he can get out of trouble on his own. That way, he wouldn't have been overshadowed by Hogan. Unfortunately, that's not the case. Randy Savage can't escape the shadow of Hulk Hogan, and in the eyes of most fans, the "Macho Man" isn't *really* the World champion. He's just holding Hogan's belt for a while.

An informal *Inside Wrestling* poll at a recent WWF card in Madison Square Garden showed this to be the impression of most fans. When the "Macho Man's" fans were asked why they like him, over 85 percent said it was because Hogan took him

under his wing. When asked whether Savage could have won the belt without Hogan's interference, nearly 75 percent said "no." And 94 percent said Savage wouldn't be a better champion than Hogan.

"I'd much rather Hogan was the champion, but if he couldn't win, Savage was my second choice," said Josh Bernstein of Brooklyn, New York. "But still, the way Savage won it was great because, when you look at it, Hogan really won the match. DiBiase had Savage beaten, but Hulk wouldn't let the belt fall into the hands of a man like DiBiase. I think, afterward, everybody was cheering Hogan and Elizabeth more than they were cheering Savage."

(Continued on page 52)



# *One Man's Nightmare:* **WE'RE DEMANDING TOO MUCH OF STING!**



Sting (left) receives a tremendous amount of support from the fans (above), but that could actually be hindering his ascension to the top levels of the sport.

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**As fans around the country hail Sting as their hero, the number-one challenger to the NWA title is growing weary. Pressure from the fans and the media—plus the enormous demand for excellence he places on himself—could cause Sting to burn out much too soon**

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**R**IC FLAIR WAS celebrating. The NWA World champion had just retained his title by wrestling Sting to a 45-minute draw at the Clash of the Champions in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"You reporters are all the same," Flair yelped, surrounded by his Four Horsemen teammates. "You come in here trying

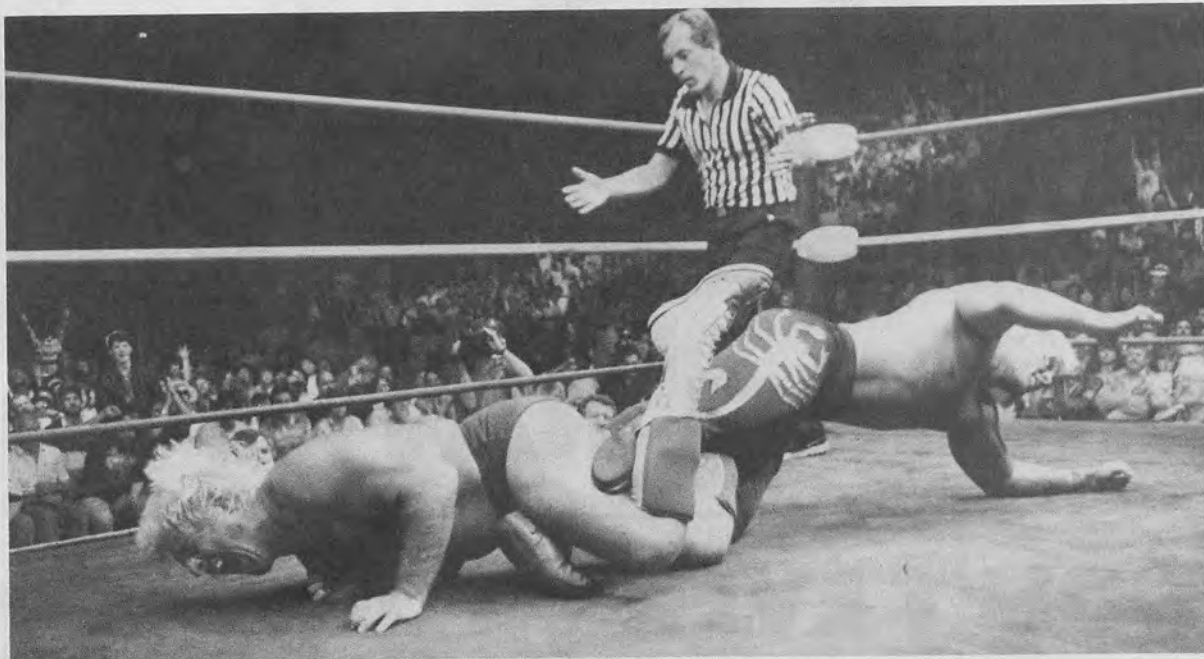
to find out why your media darling, Sting, can't beat me. Well, let me tell you yet again that *no-body* beats 'The Nature Boy'! You can go over and tell your little pet Sting that I will continue to meet every challenge, anytime, anywhere, and remain one step ahead of any path he chooses to take. And the fans, well, they'll

just have to get used to it! *Woooo!*"

On the opposite end of the arena, Sting's locker room was relatively quiet. Awash in the sweat and exhaustion of hard competition, Sting wearily greeted reporters.

"Geez, I really wanted this one for the fans," he said, "but I

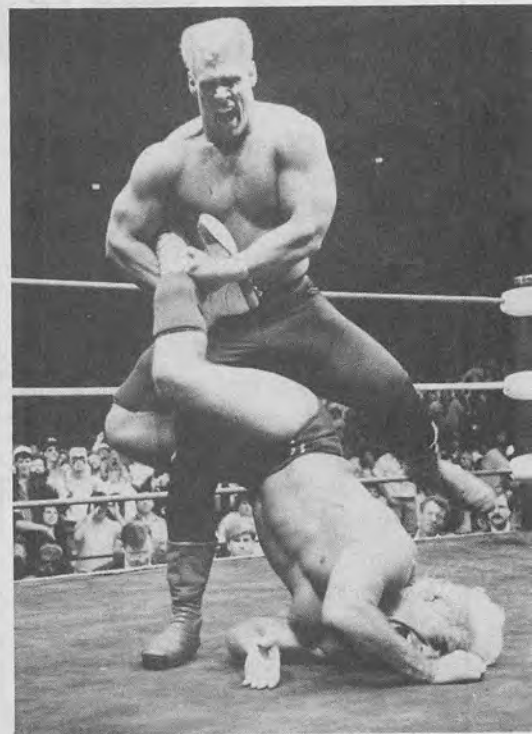




Sting reverses Ric Flair's figure-four leglock (above) and catches him with the "scorpion" leglock (right). Their battle at the Clash of the Champions was a classic.



Drawing upon all his energy, Sting makes Flair feel the pain of a leglock (above). Their war has even taken them to the top of a steel cage (right).



couldn't put him away. Man! I was so close I could taste the belt. Every time I go into the ring I know the fans are pulling for me. They must know how hard I'm trying."

While he has no intention of backing down from Flair, Sting is beginning to feel the pressure. It's a pressure he not only puts on

himself, but that he gets from the fans and the media.

"I don't know how much more Sting can take from Flair," said *Inside Wrestling* Managing Editor Craig Peters upon his return from the Clash. "That draw may well be remembered as the most grueling match of the year; a definite

(Continued on page 54)



# HOTSEAT

## MICHAEL HAYES

### "DON'T EVER CALL ME A FREEBIRD AGAIN!"

**B**IRDS OF A feather usually flock together, but you won't catch Michael Hayes near any nest that contains Buddy Roberts and Terry Gordy, his former partners in the infamous bone-busting trio known as The Fabulous Freebirds.

It wasn't that long ago when, if you saw either Hayes, Gordy, or Roberts in the ring, you knew the other two were lurking nearby. Today, if you see them in the same ring, it's because Hayes is teaming with either Kevin or Kerry Von Erich against Roberts and Gordy. This situation has also seen Hayes war-ring against Angel of Death, Black Bart, and World Class champion Ice-man Parsons in both solo and tag team matches.

There's no question about who the fans have rallied behind, as Hayes has emerged from several controversial incidents to become one of the most popular stars in wrestling. He's also impressed Texas audiences with his vocalizing in live performances with his Badstreet Band. Ironically, it was a Dallas concert appearance that laid the groundwork for the Hayes-Freebird feud.

While it's been several months since Hayes broke off relations with his former mates, this violent series of match-

es shows no signs of ending. Gordy, Roberts, Parsons, Angel, and Bart have all vowed to make "P.S." see the error of his ways.

Senior Editor Bill Apter ventured south and met Hayes in a small Dallas bar. The venue for this "Hotseat" interview was insisted upon by Hayes.

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**When [Kerry] came out to save my can, it meant he really was looking out for me. That's when I knew this was a man I could trust all the way.**

”

**Q:** I know I agreed to do the interview here, Michael, but I think this is going to kill me. I can't breathe with all this cigarette and cigar smoke, and I can barely hear you with the band playing so loud.

**A:** Billy, you older dudes need to lighten up. I just needed to get away for a couple hours. Man, listen to that band cook! Look at

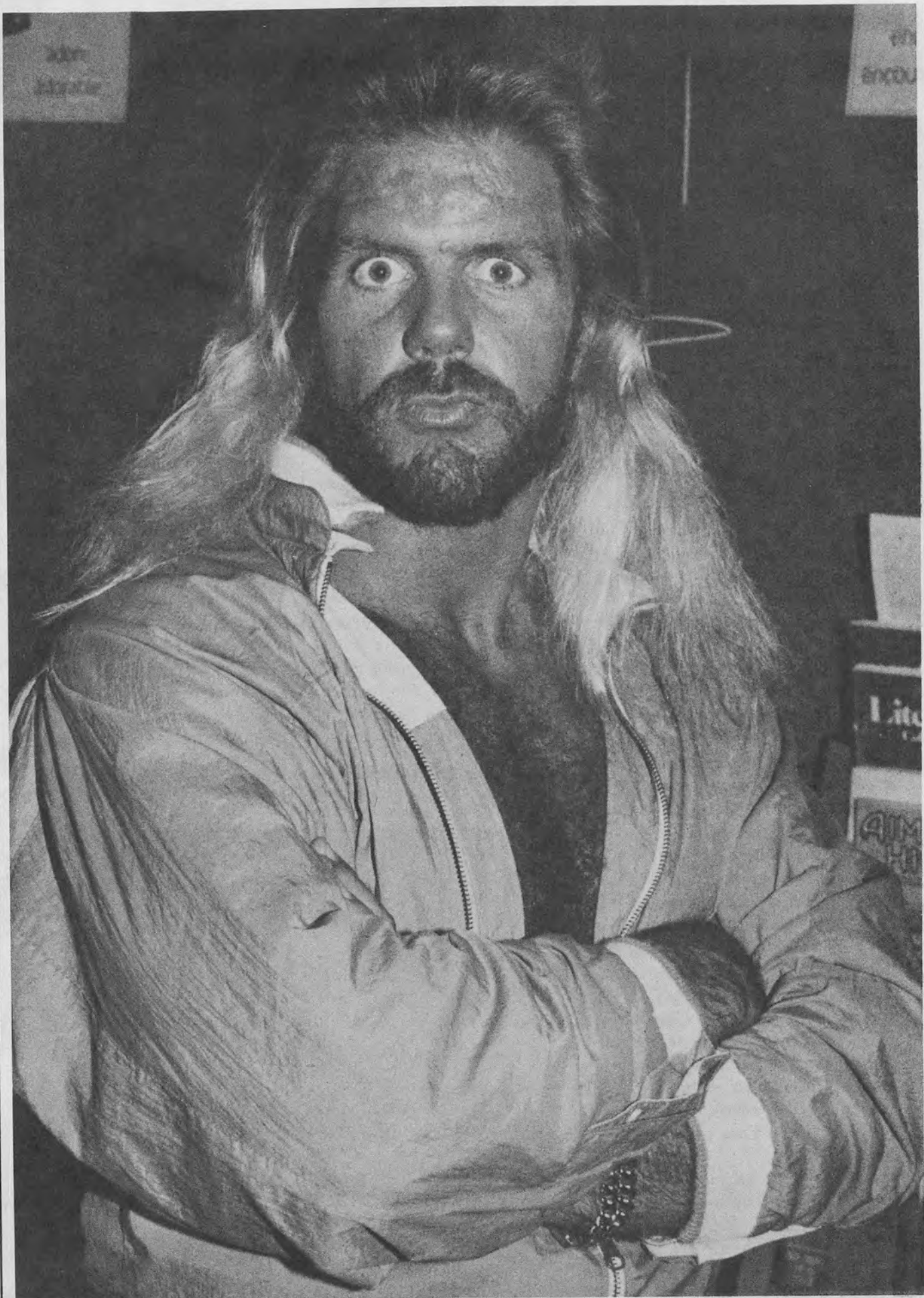
these women! I'll tell ya, it's been a whole new world for me lately. I've been enjoying the company of these fans like never before. I don't have to worry about somebody who's seen me beat somebody up in a match come to a place like this to try to start trouble. Now, I can just sit back and let all my cares slip away for a while.

**Q:** That's true. It's surprising to see a Freebird accepted by the fans . . .

**A:** Wait a minute, Bill. I don't wanna cut you off, but don't ever call me a Freebird again. That part of my past is over. First, they ruined my Dallas concert, then they interfered in my matches. That was two strikes against Parsons and Buddy. Then, when they clobbered me to help Parsons win the World Class title from Kerry, it was finished as far as I was concerned. Never again will I team with "Bamm Bamm" or Buddy "Jack." It's over. A done deal. History.

**Q:** They came close to murdering both you and Kerry during that Dallas match. At this point, do you have any idea who knocked you out and bloodied you? None of us could tell exactly what happened, even though we have some photos.









“

**[Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts] are two of the most shiftless, no-good scumbuckets on the whole stinkin' planet.**

”

**A:** It was completely dark where I was, but it felt like somebody hit me in the head with an anvil, man. I was woozy for days afterward. If I had my guess, I'd say it was Black Bart who clocked me, 'cause he was the first one at ringside, but I don't really care *who* it was. The only thing that matters is that Buddy and Terry set all that crap up. They helped Parsons steal the belt from Kerry, which he could never do on his own, 'cause he stinks on ice. Your photographer, Buddy Myers, took shots of Gordy in the ring with a pair of loaded socks when the lights went out. I can't believe Terry and Buddy just want to keep this Von Erich feud going on and on.

**Q:** When you came back to World Class from your stint in the NWA a few months ago, that's the first thing you talked about. You said you didn't want to see people get hurt.

**A:** That's right. When I came back here, it was to start the tour of Michael Hayes and the Badstreet Band, not to beat up on old men. I'd heard about what Terry, Buddy, Angel, and Parsons did to Fritz Von Erich at that Christmas card, but I figured they'd be men enough to accept the fact that I wanted no part of the Von Erichs in *any* capacity—which meant I didn't want to cripple 'em or make friends with 'em. I just wanted to be left alone to work with the guys in my band. But Buddy and Terry forced the issue, and it wasn't long before I decided to get back to the ring full-time.

**Q:** It wasn't long before you were ranked the number-one contender to then-champion Al Perez' title, either.

**A:** Right on. But I never really got a decent match against that Latin heartburn, although I think it was *me* who ran his overrated carcass out of Texas. I always outwrestled him, but somehow Terry or Buddy or one of their slimy pals always got involved in my title matches. The last time I took on Perez, it was Kerry Von Erich who came to

my rescue when Perez and baldylocks Gary Hart ganged up on me. More than any other match, I think that one changed my attitude for real.

**Q:** Why is that?

**A:** When Kerry came in and cleared the ring of those bozos, I couldn't believe it. I mean, when I rescued him from Angel of Death during a match a couple weeks earlier, I really was going after that bald geek more than trying to rescue Von Erich. But when he came out to save my can, it meant he really was looking out for *me*. There was no selfish motive involved on his part. He saw two wrestlers beatin' the heck out of one guy, saw it was wrong, and came out to clean house. That's when I knew this was a man I could trust all the way, baby. Since then, I've tagged with him and Kevin Von Erich a bunch of times, and I've gotten to know them outside the ring, too. I even went to their family's house for dinner. Can you believe that?

**Q:** Hardly. But is all this newfound goodwill just a temporary thing? Will we soon see the new Michael Hayes become the old Michael

Michael Hayes battles The Freebirds as he chokes Buddy Roberts (below) and squares off against Terry Gordy (opposite page) in individual one-on-one matches. Their relationship disintegrated when Hayes returned to Texas.







Hayes and prove that this was all a ruse to get back at the Von Erichs? Will you reform with Gordy and Roberts once again? We've seen this kind of plot work before, and many fans still aren't sure about you.

**A:** I'm not just any wrestler, Bill, and I'm surprised you'd even think that way about ol' "P.S." They say it's never too late to learn, and I've discovered a bunch of new things over the last few months. I've found that Kerry Von Erich is a pretty decent dude and one of the best wrestlers in the business. I've learned that Kevin Von Erich is as solid as a rock, both physically and as a person. Most importantly, I've realized that "Bamm Bamm" and Buddy are two of the most shiftless, no-good scumbuckets on the whole stinkin' planet.

**Q:** But how can the fans believe you really feel that way after what they've seen you do in conjunction with the other Freebirds, not only in World Class, but in other areas as well?

**A:** They trust me because I'm a no-B.S. kind of guy, and that's for sure. Even when I was a little more reckless than I am now, when I said something, I *meant* it. I never tell a lie, and I know the fans believe in me and what I do. I can't tell you how much that means to me. It's the same as when I'm up on that stage, singin' my heart out, and then I hear all those people raise the roof on the joint. Now I can wrestle and *really* enjoy going

out there, and that's so much more satisfying than havin' to watch my back all the time.

**Q:** Now that you've taken this 360-degree turn in your career, what are your plans for the people who are out to get you?

**A:** First, since Black Bart seems to be the one who bloodied me in the dark, I'm gonna return the favor real soon by putting Bart in the black for good. All I'll say now is that he'd better hope *his* lights don't go out *permanently*. As for Angel of Death, I think I'll send him on an all-expenses paid trip back to California—in a hearse. Oh, man, that sounds like fun!

**Q:** How about the WCCW championship that Parsons currently holds?

**A:** You know, I've been so busy goin' up against the Freebirds that I almost forgot there are titles around to be won. Yeah, I think I'd like to get my hands on Iceberg. I think I'd be a better champion than he could ever *dream* of being. Terry Taylor better keep that Texas championship belt in good shape, too. He's been doing a lot of things I haven't been involved in, but that don't mean I ain't paying attention. Are you listenin', Terry?

**Q:** What about your former partners?

**A:** I'm as serious as a heart attack when it comes to "Bamm Bamm" and Buddy, and it won't be much fun to end the wrestling careers of the Freebirds. You know, Bill, I gave the best years of my life to teaming with those guys. I spent more nights traveling, wrestling,



“

**I'm a no-B.S. kind of guy. I know the fans believe in me and what I do. Even when I was a little more reckless than I am now, when I said something, I *meant* it.**

”

and partying with those two than I care to remember. I'd be lying if I said I didn't have more than my share of good times with 'em. But now they've gotta be stopped, and who's better equipped to do the job than the man who formed the Freebirds in the first place?

**Q:** I can't think of anybody better than you to get the job done, but it's hard to think of *anything* in this place. My ears are ringing, my eyes are burning, and somebody stole my \$20 bill off the bar. I'm glad I got a chance to talk to you, but I don't think I'll ever be the same.

**A:** Why, Willie, you oldtimer, *ha ha ha*. The night is still young, and there's still plenty of partying to do! Let me call over this pretty lady—hey, Marilyn, bring that bottle over here. Darlin', meet the best reporter in wrestling. Now it's time for a *serious* interview—with Mr. Jack Daniel's! □



**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

**I**T DIDN'T TAKE Dusty Rhodes long. The moment he heard allegations that he was masquerading as The Midnight Rider, he telephoned *Inside Wrestling* Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks. "You set it up, Saks," Dusty demanded. "Hold space for a 'One-On-One' between myself and the Rider. I'll get the two of us together whenever you want, at a time of your choosing. That way, it will prove once and for all that we are different people!"

And that's how this historic interview was born.

Nevertheless, the evidence indicates that Dusty and The Midnight Rider are the same person. Despite the Rider's mask and bodysuit, the physical similarities are stunning. Verbally, the Rider and Rhodes sound exactly alike. And, of course, there's the historical evidence: When Rhodes lost a loser-leave-Florida match against Kevin Sullivan in 1983, he resurfaced as the Rider. Now that the NWA has suspended Dusty for 120 days after brutalizing Tully Blanchard and NWA President Jim Crockett with a baseball bat, the Rider is back again.

The Rider has sworn to avenge his friend Magnum T.A., who was being attacked by Blanchard when Rhodes emerged with the bat. Others are sworn to unmask not only the Rider, but the entire plot. J.J. Dillon, manag-

# ONE ON ONE



"Brother, I would give my last breath to cripple even one of those Horsemen, and here you're gonna do it for me. I must know how I can repay you."

—Dusty Rhodes

er of The Four Horsemen, was told by Crockett that Rhodes would be suspended for one year if Dusty was proven to be the Rider.

Neither Dusty nor the Rider are worried. They insist that they're separate individuals who have taken up the same cause of fair play. And until someone can unmask The Midnight Rider in front of an NWA official, that claim will have to stand. Especially after Dusty and The Midnight Rider squared off . . . "One on One."

## DUSTY RHODES:

Hey, brother, thanks a lot for joinin' me for this interview. Now it's obvious that we're not the same person. "The Dream" don't break suspension rules. I didn't break them after losin' in Florida,

and I won't break them now. But, boy, do I appreciate your efforts, Rider.

## MIDNIGHT RIDER:

That's the least I can do for a friend, baby. Everybody talkin' that The Midnight Rider and Dusty Rhodes are the same person, but that's as far from the truth as Diablo Canyon, Colorado, is from Austin, Texas, brother, and everybody knows that Diablo Canyon is where Midnight Rider come from, and Austin is where "The American Dream" come from. And I don't break rules either, big Dust, I just fight for what's right.

**DR:** Well, first off, Rider, I like to think that our friendship is based on that mutual dedication to fair play. In fact, I was just sayin' to my friend Magnum T.A. . . .



# V ONE



"No need to repay me, Dust, I do things because they're right. That's the way it is. We both fight for law and order, not for each other."

—*The Midnight Rider*

**MR:** Yessir, Maggie Mae.

**DR:** . . . I was tellin' him how grateful I am to have you as an avenger. When he told me of his plans to valet for you, "The Dream" was mighty pleased, baby, mighty pleased.

**MR:** Magnum T.A. is quite a guy, Dusty, but he's hurt. He don't have what he used to have, and he has to use a baseball bat. That hurts him. But with the Rider by his side, he won't have to worry about usin' any bat. The Rider, Maggie Mae, and my trusty horse, Diablo, the most trustworthy piece of horseflesh that ever lived, are gonna fight for justice, baby, and put away those Four Horsemen.

**DR:** I hear you, brother, I would give my last breath to cripple even one of those Horsemen, and here

you're gonna do it for me. Now, Rider, I know you're a man of incredible honor, but I must know how I can repay you. You see, where I come from, a man is only a man if he repays his debts.

**MR:** No need to repay me, Dust, I do things because they're right. I come ridin' in on my dark horse, wearing my mask and my 'rasslin' outfit, and they cheer for me the way they cheer for you. That's how you're repaying me, baby, by lending me your fans, by lending me their help, for 120 days, and then I'll ride off back to Diablo Canyon once again and you'll return. That's the way it is, Dust. We both fight for law and order, not for each other.

**DR:** You know, Rider, you just may have a heart the size of Diablo Canyon. Not only are you

avengin' *me*, but also my fans. I meet a lot of them while I'm out on the road, and one thing is for certain, brother, they have a lot of respect for what you're doin' and why you're doin' it. I'll find a way to repay you, you can be sure of that, brother.

**MR:** Actually, Dusty, there *is* a way you can repay me. You can stand by Maggie Mae through thick and thin, because he hurts inside and outside, because he thinks he made you get suspended. I saw him sittin' there by the campfire and his heart was on *fire*, it was burnin' up because he thought he did you wrong. But you gotta tell him, baby, that he didn't do *nothin'* wrong. He just did what he thought was right. Maggie's a good man, a fine man, and fine men shouldn't have to suffer.

**DR:** Well, let me tell you one thing, brother. Brother Magnum is one of the most noble, sincere men to ever put on the tights, and if I have neglected him in any way, I consider it my biggest failure. I want you and *everyone* to know that while you are avenging me *inside* the ring, I'm going to be working extra hard to make sure that ol' Maggie knows just how important he is to the game of wrestling.

**MR:** It's an honorable fight.

**DR:** That's right, baby.

**MR:** It's a good fight.

**DR:** That's right, brother.

**MR:** And we gonna keep on showin' them Horsemen that they can't get away with what they're doing. I'm gonna show ol' J.J. Dillon that he can't cheat to get ahead. You know, my daddy, my dear departed daddy, used to sit me on his lap. He'd sit me on his lap and say, "Son, you do what's right for the rest of your life and you can die in peace." That's what I've been doin' all my life, and now I have to ride off, brother. But don't worry, I'm takin' care of business.

**DR:** Farewell, Midnight Rider. □



# WRESTLING USA

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**SPRING 1985/Color pinups:** Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

**SUMMER 1985/Color pinups:** Kerry-Flair, Hawk-Lawler, Funk-Slater, Nikita-Rhodes. **Stories include:** Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita.

**FALL 1985/Color pinups:** Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. **Stories include:** Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

**WINTER 1985/Color pinups:** Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

**SPRING 1986/Color pinups:** Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

**SUMMER 1986/Color pinups:** Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

**FALL 1986/Color pinups:** Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

**WINTER 1986/Color pinups:** Rude-Von Erich, Khrushchev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan-Orndorff, Horsemens, Snuka, Von Erich.

**SPRING 1987/Color pinups:** Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

**SUMMER 1987/Color pinups:** Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. **Stories include:** Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Williams, Albano, Von Erich.

**FALL 1987/Color pinups:** Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. **Stories include:** Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

**WINTER 1987/Color pinups:** Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, R&R Express, Hart, Hogan-Race, Hyatt, Lawler.

**SPRING 1988/Color pinups:** Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, Magnum T.A., War Games.

**SUMMER 1988/Color pinups:** Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan-Andre-DiBiase, Ellering-Dillon-Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

an early exit. It was the art of losing.

Some suggest that if Flair spent his time concentrating on *winning* rather than on getting himself disqualified, his record would be unblemished. His brand of talent may never come our way again. In Flair there were several tiers of strength, wisdom, and technique blended in subtle composition. Flair was not distinguished by ripping biceps or gravity-defying backflips. He was just better than everyone else he wrestled.

But he opted for the easy life both in and out of the ring. Why work when the rules rewarded you for cheating? If you could lose, and still walk away with the strap, then what difference did it make? Rather than expand on his abilities, exploring and stretching their boundaries, Flair preferred to take his money and leave. "Won't records don't interest me," he'd say, "the numbers in my checking account are what I care about."

If history were to regard him with contempt, what did he care? History wasn't drinking expensive champagne with leggy models or jetting around the world in a private plane. After each ignominious defeat, with the jeweled belt still adorning his waist, Flair would point to it and say, "I'm still the champ, aren't I? You may feel I lost the match, but this belt proves otherwise."

Unfortunately, it did. If no one could take his title, he was the champ. On rare occasions, with the dream of competition awakened in his bloodstream, Flair would favor the world with a demonstration of his great talents. A 45-minute war against Sting. A 60-minute battle against Lex Luger. He'd make us forget the tawdry manner in which his losses diminished a great sport.

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Flair (pulling Koloff back into the ring) has always believed that "stylin' and profilin'" like a champion is more important than defending the belt cleanly.

The legend would endure and insulate him from further criticism. Four times he lost the title; four times he battled like a lion to regain it.

But Flair has tested the patience of his most devoted followers. Now, when the going gets tough, Flair gets going—literally!—out of the ring. No longer does he put forth the effort to earn his disqualification. Instead he simply walks, as he did in a recent title bout against Nikita Koloff.

A friend of mine, longtime NWA maven Joe Canose, sat through the latest debacle. "I couldn't believe my eyes," he reported incredulously. "Flair just walked out of the ring. Nikita was banging him from ringpost to ringpost. I was waiting for Flair to pull out somehow, but not to just *walk* out. He just *walked out of the ring!*"

Amazing, isn't it? Despite his many shortcomings, can you ever imagine Hulk Hogan simply leaving the ring? But the worst was yet to come. Referee Tommy Young, astonished by Flair's exit, chased after him down the aisle.

"You can't do that!" Young screamed. "Get back in the ring. You can't quit like that."

"I'll do what I want," Flair responded. "Get out of my way."

Young was insistent. "Get back in the ring," he cried. He then pushed Flair toward the ring, shocking himself as much as the champ. Outraged, Flair moved threateningly at Young, who got the message and fled back to the ring. Flair followed him, but his attempts to attack Young were blocked by Koloff.

The match ended, naturally, with Flair getting himself disqualified. Koloff demanded an investigation of the match, to no avail. The NWA offices denied his inquiry.

The longer Flair, the federation's standardbearer, is permitted to flout the rules and walk away laughing, the worse it reflects on the federation. What has always separated the NWA from the bigger-yet-not-better WWF is its integrity. With Flair's latest escape, and the nonsense perpetuated by the Dusty Rhodes/Midnight Rider controversy (not to mention the NWA's unwillingness to censor Magnum T.A. for his continued interference), the federation risks losing the best edge it's got in the sport.

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# HONKY TONK

(Continued from page 31)

spent most of those matches against Savage getting himself disqualified. Not once did he cleanly pin the "Macho Man." In fact, he rarely wins any of his bouts with top-flight opponents by pinfall. Nevertheless, after all the matches were done, he still had the belt around his waist. They say that possession is nine-tenths of the law; in wrestling, possession often has one-tenth more meaning than that.

As Honky's title reign lengthens, his arrogance grows. When he dances around the ring, he's saying, in effect, "Ha! You didn't think I'd have the belt this long, did you? Well, to hell with all of you. I'm the champ, you hate it, and I love it. Ha, ha!" When he thanks you for your support, he's really thumbing his nose at you. He appreciates your support about as much as he likes the "Macho Man."

"I've seen them all," said Reed Simpson of Great Neck, New York, who wrote to express his dismay over the champion, "but this guy's the biggest phony in the WWF. That's saying something. I don't care if he holds the belt for 10 years; he'll never be a champion in my book. When I see him dance around like an idiot, I get sick to my stomach. It's absolutely shameful the way he conducts himself."

The words "conduct unbecoming a champion" have little meaning to Honky Tonk. Having a championship has not raised the level of his character; if anything, it's made him a worse person.

But the truth of the matter is that in a sport where championships can be won and lost in a matter of weeks—sometimes even days—longevity is a genuine mark of greatness. Ric Flair has built a career on that fact. Bruno Sammartino is remembered by many not



Jake Roberts shoulderblocks Honky Tonk into the turnbuckle (above left). The champion is down at Brutus Beefcake's feet at WrestleMania IV (above right).



Honky Tonk, who may soon be the longest-reigning I-C champ ever, aims a fist at Hulk Hogan.

With The Hart Foundation's help, Honky Tonk winds up to smash Randy Savage with his guitar.

for the excellence of his technique, but for the length of his title reigns.

And it won't be long—August 2, 1988, is the date—before Honky Tonk will be the longest-reigning I-C champion ever. If he can hold on to the belt, that is. And if he can, like him or not, he will deserve consideration as one of the best.

Who will be able to deny him that?



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**January 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

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**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

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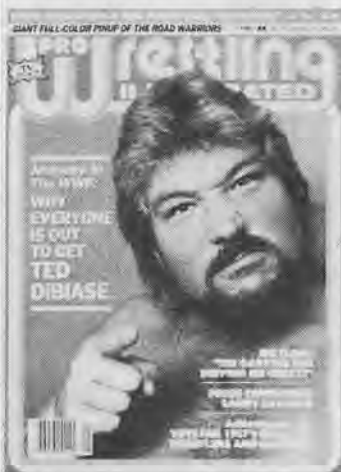
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## JANUARY 1988

**January 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



Barry Windham accompanies Ric Flair to the ring at the Crockett Cup. Dave Rosenbaum has no doubt that Windham made the wrong move when he joined The Four Horsemen.

about. He knows how J.J. Dillon uses people to get what he wants. And he's the one who told Luger not to join the Horsemen in the first place.

So what does Windham do? He joins the Horsemen. Makes perfect sense.

Of course, Dillon, Flair, Anderson, and Blanchard have no interest in Windham's career. The whole idea was to get Windham so Anderson and Blanchard could win the belts back and have less trouble defending them. Windham will now be left to rot while the Horsemen pretend they're doing something for him. But there's nothing the Horsemen can do for Windham. He doesn't need to be taught how to wrestle, like Luger did. What he needs is a belt, and he can't get that now. His "friends" have a monopoly on the NWA World championships.

And how's this for irony: Windham sacrificed the title to join the Horsemen and, in doing so, probably thought that he left Luger with nothing, too. So what did Luger do? He quickly formed a partnership with Sting and defeated Blanchard and Anderson to

win the Crockett Cup tournament. Where was Windham during the Crockett Cup? On the sidelines, watching Flair defend his belt against Nikita Koloff, and watching Blanchard and Anderson advance to the Cup finals.

On one of the NWA's biggest days of the year, Windham wasn't involved. For that, he can thank J.J. Dillon.

\*\*\*

Kendall Windham spent Crockett Cup weekend answering the same questions over and over again. "Why do you think your brother did it?" reporters kept asking. Kendall, calm as ever, answered them politely, saying that Barry "is his own man and has to do what he has to do." But in reality, even he didn't know what made Barry become a member of The Four Horsemen.

Kendall wasn't born with his brother's ability, but he has a lot more common sense. Although Kendall's career has not been particularly accomplished—he was Florida champion a few times, but a World championship has never been in reach—he's always known why he was in wres-



ting and where he was going. Sometimes it's hard to believe that Kendall is Barry's brother and Blackjack's son. He's not prone to their constant mood changes.

"I try to maintain an even keel," Kendall said on day two in Greensboro, North Carolina, long after he and The Italian Stallion had been eliminated from the tournament. "My brother has always done things for his own reasons, and I've always done things for mine. Barry is a very emotional person, but he's always known what's right and what's wrong. That's what surprised me about this, because not only was joining the Horsemen wrong as a matter of principle, it was wrong for Barry's career.

"Listen, I'm not going to pretend that I'm as good a wrestler as Barry, but I've always tried my best," Kendall said. "I'm very proud of my brother's success and I'm glad we had the chance to team together at certain points in our careers. The simple fact of the matter is that I've just had to work a lot harder to get where I am. I'm not in a position to tell my brother what to do, but this is the worst mistake he's ever made. It makes me sad."

Kendall said that he had only seen his brother once since Barry became a member of the Horsemen, and he was amazed by the change. "A totally different person," Kendall said. "He was arrogant, he spoke down to me, and he just walked away from me when Dillon called him. J.J. said something like, 'Don't you talk to him. We're your family now.' I couldn't believe it. But I know he'll come around. I'm confident of that."

That's probably true. In the not-too-distant future, Dillon, Flair, and the rest will decide that they don't need Barry Windham anymore. At that point, Windham will discover that he was being used all along. ☐

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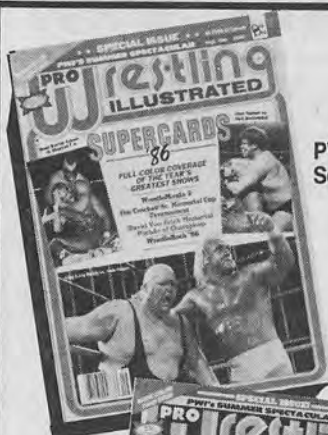
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## MISSY & EDDIE

(Continued from page 33)



Missy listens to the masked Gilbert's dubious claims (above). Scotty "The Body" put his neck on the line for Missy, but she refuses to date him (opposite page).

and Missy Hyatt, joined by a man in an executioner's mask, sat in the rear of the arena. Everybody assumed that the mystery man was Gilbert, who had worn a mask since his face was burned by Lawler. After five minutes, referee Jerry Calhoun was knocked out of the ring and the man in the mask ran in. Lawler smashed him and pulled off the mask, revealing Scotty "The Body."

Five days later, Scotty told a national TV audience that he did it because Missy Hyatt promised him a date. To everybody's surprise, Hyatt didn't deny it. "You didn't do a good job, though, Scotty," said Missy. "But if you can beat Lawler on TV, I'll go out with you." As it turned out, Lawler easily defeated Scotty, who got nothing

from Missy but a slap in the face.

But the rumor mills had already started turning. How could Hyatt promise Scotty a date when she was married to Gilbert? Perhaps she really wasn't serious about going out with Scotty and was merely using him to get what she wanted. But isn't that the way she's always operated? Missy merely uses men for her own gains. Gilbert isn't any exception.

"That's ridiculous," said Gilbert. "Missy loves me, and she always has. She told me before that Lawler-Hennig match that she had a plan up her sleeve to get Lawler, and I went along with her. Listen, I don't blame Scotty for wanting to go out with my wife. She's the most beautiful woman in the





world. But if he thinks he can sneak behind my back, he deserves what's coming to him. Besides, Lawler kicked his butt twice."

"What Eddie says is true," claimed Missy. "I would *never* cheat on Eddie, especially with somebody like *Scotty*. That big-headed fool was *supposed* to do a job for me, and he couldn't even do it. If you think I'd ever go out with a loser, you've got another think coming. That boy was willing to do whatever I *asked* him to, so why *not* take advantage of your resources?"

Apparently, the happy couple doesn't care that people are talking. All is fine in the Gilbert household, they say. But people insist they've seen Missy and Scotty on the streets, and heard Missy and Eddie fighting behind closed doors. One night Gilbert was caught threatening Scotty. And wasn't that Missy and Scotty holding hands during the Lawler-Hennig match?

"I was just trying to make people *think* it was Eddie," Missy said unconvincingly.

"There's nothing between Scotty and my wife," Gilbert insists.

"I'd love for her to go out with me, but she keeps on saying no," said Scotty "The Body."

Keep at it, Scotty. Missy Hyatt will break down. She always does. ☐

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**WINTER 1985/Color pinup:** Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

**SPRING 1986/Color pinup:** The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

**SUMMER 1986/Color pinup:** Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

**FALL 1986/Color pinup:** Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

**WINTER 1986/Color pinup:** Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

**SPRING 1987/Color pinup:** The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

**SUMMER 1987/Color pinup:** Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

**FALL 1987/Color pinup:** Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

**WINTER 1987/Color pinup:** Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

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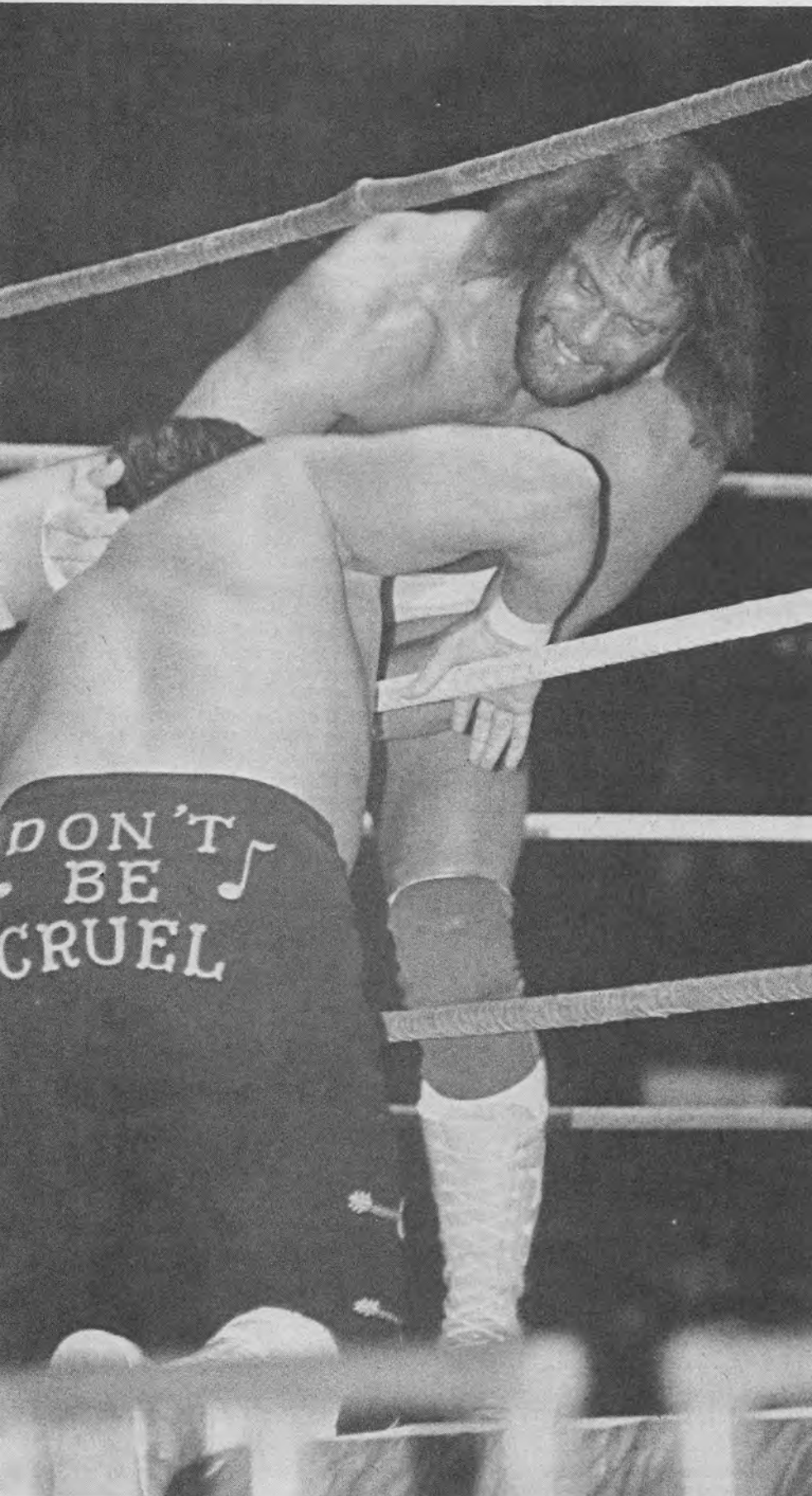
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## SAVAGE & HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)



"Hogan is the greatest champion ever, period," said Julie Bowden of Newark, New Jersey. "Savage can hold the belt for a while, but he knows, and we all know, that if Hogan ever challenged him to a match, Hogan would beat him in a second. When Savage was Intercontinental champion, he wrestled Hogan a million times, but he could never beat him. Hulk got eliminated from the tournament because he got carried away against Andre, but if that didn't happen, he would've won easily."



Savage pulls The Honky Tonk Man back into the ring (left). Savage and Hogan square off just before bringing their long feud to an end (above).

Incredibly, many fans still perceive Hogan, not Savage, as the champion. Wrestling's boom period began in 1984, when Hogan won the title and attracted many new fans to the sport. To many WWF fans, Hogan is the only champion they've ever known. It's almost inconceivable to them that anybody else could have the belt.

"Hogan is the champion in my heart, and that's the only place it counts," said 14-year-old Richie



Miniveri, who, as it turns out, first started watching wrestling in 1984. "They talk about Ric Flair and Curt Hennig and all these other guys, but they're *nothing* compared to Hogan—and that includes Savage. I just *know* that Hulk will get the belt back. But until he does, I'll cheer for Savage because that's who Hulk likes."

Despite this, Savage is a much more talented all-around wrestler than Hogan. Although Hogan is stronger, Savage is a vastly superior aerial artist and has far greater scientific skills. He also has more stamina. Fans often make the mistake of misjudging the 1986 and 1987 matches between Hogan and Savage when, in fact, Hogan merely won because Savage was a crazed maniac who easily lost track of his game plan ... if he had one at all.

But now that he's more secure in his relationship with Elizabeth, the fans, and—most important—himself, Savage is a much better wrestler now than he was a year ago. Savage probably would have beaten DiBiase in the tournament final, but that match was anything but a one-on-one battle. Andre the Giant constantly distracted Savage and kept him from maintaining an advantage. People are mistaken when they say that Savage won because of Hogan; he won *despite* Andre's interference.

Perhaps the only way for Savage to prove his worthiness as champion is to wrestle Hogan and beat him. While Savage would most likely accept a friendly challenge from Hogan, "The Hulkster," fearing the dangerous precedent it could set, isn't likely to ask for a title match. As champion, Hogan never offered his friends and fellow fan favorites title matches. If Hogan wrestled Savage and beat him, wouldn't he have to accept challenges from fellow fan favorites in the future?

Of course, Hogan is better off *never* wrestling Savage. That way, the "Macho Man" will live in his shadow forever and the Hogan legend will never be surpassed. ☐

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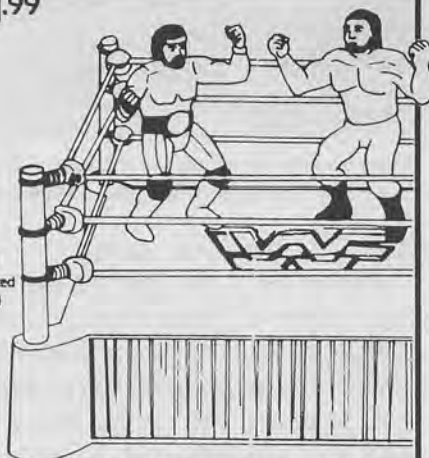
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# STING

(Continued from page 37)



Sting leaps at Flair from the top rope. "The Stinger" will need such outstanding aerial skills if he hopes to ever defeat the champion.

Match of the Year candidate."

Peters may be right. What he saw down in Greensboro, North Carolina, was no mere wrestling match. It was an exhaustive struggle between two titans, an exhausting showcase of aerial and scientific skills. It was a war. And as far as the fans are concerned, it's a war they can't let Sting lose.

But why *must* it be Sting? Certainly there are a host of other wrestlers who have the talent to beat Flair. The recent arrival of The Midnight Rider adds yet another name to the swelled ranks of skilled competitors in line for title shots: Lex Luger, Road Warrior Hawk, Nikita Koloff, Road Warrior Animal, Jim Garvin, Dusty Rhodes, Steve Williams, Ronnie Garvin. They're all capable of beating Flair. Yet the fans want Sting to lead the chase.

"It's because he's so intense, so dedicated to the game," said one fan at ringside for the Clash of the Champions. "I hear he works out five hours a day! Not only do I respect that type of loyalty, but it's probably the only way to beat Flair!"

"He's so sexy! What a body!" said a young woman in Greensboro, obviously transfixed by Sting's physique. "I don't know why he's every man's nightmare, because he's certainly my dream!"

"Sting will *definitely* be the one to end Flair's fifth NWA reign," writes another fan in a letter typical of many hundreds we receive each week. "He's got to. He's the best hope for the NWA—and for all of wrestling. He'll rule the sport into the '90s!"

With that kind of pressure, one must assume that Sting is pushing himself to the absolute limit. But where is that limit, and when will Sting reach it? Or has he reached it already?

Sting ignores these questions, and perhaps we are adding to the pressure on his shoulders simply by stating them in print.

Most of Flair's opponents know what it's like to have intense fan support. Many of those opponents, however, now rest in peace on Flair's towering scrap heap of discarded challengers, a scrap heap on which Sting may eventu-

ally find himself—if he can't handle the pressure.

Indeed, while egotism and arrogance filled Flair's locker room after the Clash, there was none of the fan and media pressure that seems to follow Sting's every move.

"Hah, let the challenger sweat it out," Dillon was saying. "We just have to sit back and wait for him. It's Sting who has to keep pushing and keep struggling. It's always easier to defend a title than to take it away!"

Sting knows that well. Perhaps too well. Because unlike the celebrating Horsemen, Sting was not relaxing. In fact, the young grappler even declined the comforts of a shower. He was headed for the gym.

The gym?

"That's right, I'm outta here," Sting said. "I'm gonna have to push myself even further if I want to beat Flair. Everyone's right. I *should* be able to beat Flair. But until I do, the fans will never let me rest. I'll be reading stories about it in all the magazines. No, I think I'll go down to the weight room and pump iron for about an hour, *then* I'll call it a night."

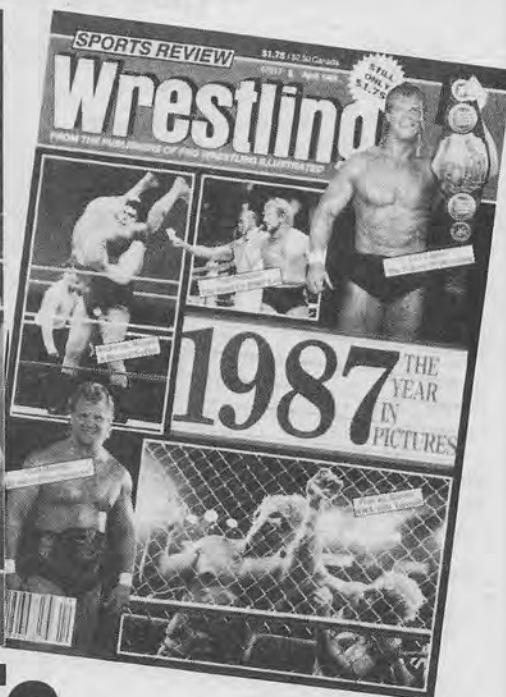
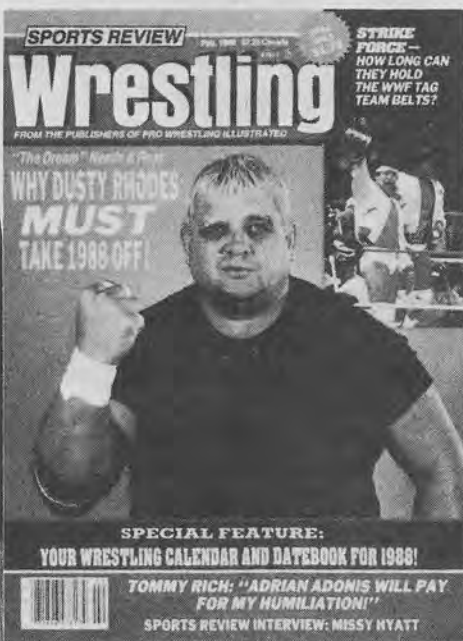
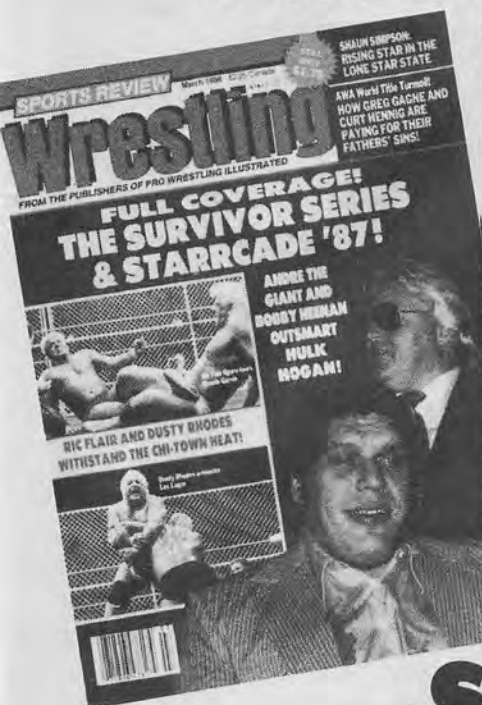
Sting is a man with an obsession. It is precisely this type of dedication that has endeared him to so many fans. He has a selfless—some say maniacal—devotion to the cause of beating Flair and the Horsemen. Yet the champion remains unbeaten, the fans remain unsatisfied, and Sting remains a man with an exhausting mission.

Maybe we're *all* wrong. Maybe Sting *isn't* the man to defeat Ric Flair. Maybe he's already reached the limits of his abilities.

Suggest that to Sting and he'll tell you he's only getting started. Somewhere, there's a part of us that thinks he's absolutely right. □



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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 20)



Roberts twists Rude's arm during their match at WrestleMania IV. The result of that contest was inconclusive, but Roberts won't rest until the Rude advances stop.

of his brazen charm, critics have overlooked his excesses and indulged his relentless vanity. He has not only survived and endured as a sex symbol, but has won respect as a top-flight grappler, versatile in the ring, and possessing a strength that can only be called prodigious.

But with this latest escapade, Rude will be lucky to escape with his life. In affairs of the heart, it is a daring few who usurp another man's territory. Cemeteries are filled with corpses done in by raging cuckolds. Although there is no evidence to support Rude's claim that Mrs. Roberts lusts after his bod, I know from experience how difficult it is to deter the passionate advances of this devilish Lothario. Rude is a hunter who usually gets his quarry.

I've also known Roberts for many years. Few in wrestling are unaware of the devotion Jake has for his beautiful wife. I remember years ago he thrashed a preliminary wrestler who passed an innocent remark about the way his wife filled out a dress. How do you think he will react to the suggestive come-ons from a professed seducer of other men's

wives?

"Rude has picked on the wrong gal," said one dressing room source. "For one thing, she is totally devoted to Jake. She loves the guy. And there ain't nothing 'The Snake' won't do for his lady. 'The Snake's' going to squeeze the stuffing out of Rude. Jake and Damien will make Rude wish he'd never come to the WWF."

Rick Rude is a strange fellow when it comes to romance. He fancies himself a modern-day Valentino, able to lure and steal women according to his whims—and never suffer the consequences.

"Women love me and men envy me," he once told me. "Men don't mind that I steal their women. They feel the women will learn from the experience and they will benefit from it in the long run. I'm doing the world a favor. Every girl deserves to be ravished by 'Ravishing.' Every girl deserves her fantasy to come true."

Jake Roberts has a different ending to this "Ravishing" Rick Rude fantasy. And if Rude can pull himself away from the mirror long enough to read this, he'd be doing himself quite a favor. □



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February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.

March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.

April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.

June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.

July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.

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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

els. Even through all of the injuries, tragedies, setbacks, and heartbreaks, they *still* have high spirits. When compared to Fritz Von Erich, a group like The Freebirds looks immature and insignificant.

Case in point: the "lights out" match at the Sportatorium. The crippling of both Kerry Von Erich and Michael Hayes by those forces of evil, The Freebirds, showed not only that they are a bunch of sore losers, but that they are brutal as well. Sure, Ice-man Parsons is on top for now. But because of the shining example of the Von Erichs, I know that, given time, Kerry will regain the title that is rightfully his. I believe it because they believe it.

CHARLES CASEY  
 Waco, TX

## THE SPOILS OF CHEATING

I'm a big wrestling fan. I watch NWA, WWF, and WCCW. I simply love wrestling. I'm writing to say that wrestling isn't a family sport anymore. Wrestling gives children bad ideas. Children shouldn't watch something that shows cheating and lying—and they shouldn't see that *rewards* are given for such immoral behavior.

Take the February 5 match between Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant, for example. Everyone saw how "The Hulkster" got cheated, but nobody cared. Whatever happened to the good guy coming in first? In wrestling, bad guys come out on top by cheating because officials are too cowardly to enforce the rules. What kind of example is that for children? And what's worse, look how Hogan, a wrestler who has always served as my greatest inspiration to do good, has turned to rule-breaking. He does it because he knows it is the only way to succeed, and this is the tragedy!

I'm beginning to question my faith in wrestling.

LISA CAMPBELL  
 Reidsville, NC





Bret Hart doesn't get enough credit for being a great scientific wrestler, writes Ann Kovach.

### HART-THROB

I would like to thank Dave Rosenbaum for his enlightening "Behind The Dressing Room Door" column in your May 1988 issue. I have always felt that Bret Hart is one of the best wrestlers in the sport today.

For once, it was fun to watch a wrestling show put on by the WWF—the whole concept of "The Royal Rumble" was imaginative and exciting. I was worried when Hart was one of the first wrestlers in the ring, but as the match progressed, I saw a Bret Hart that I never saw before. He was quick and more scientific than usual. Of course, he used his rulebreaking ways at some points, but he wouldn't be Bret if he didn't.

The only one to give Bret any credit was Jesse Ventura, who always says what he believes—and in the WWF that's a hard thing to do. Vince McMahon will invariably root only for his so-called "fan favorites."

In years to come, I know Bret will once again be a champion, because he has the ring smarts, stamina, and agility of a great wrestler.

ANN KOVACH  
Scranton, PA

(Continued on page 60)

## WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE OF RARE BACK ISSUES

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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 59)



Iceman Parsons may be the World Class champion now, but reader Gary Stennes reminds Parsons that he can lose that title by disqualification. Gary thinks other federations should adopt a similar rule.

### DQ SOLUTION

I think I have the answer to every organization's problem of wrestlers getting themselves disqualified rather than losing their belts.

I believe that World Class has the best DQ policy: If a champion is disqualified, he loses the match *and* the belt. That ought to make a wrestler or his manager think twice before getting counted out or interfering.

Well, that rule may be good for Texas, but other organizations have more problems with disqualifications. My proposition states that if a champion wrestler or tag team gets disqualified three times in a row, the belts go to the challenger in that third bout.

I thought this up while watching Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson use J.J. Dillon's shoe to hit Barry Windham. Windham and Luger won the battle, but lost the war. I think this is an excellent solution for the WWF, NWA, and AWA. Maybe then The Honky Tonk Man, Tully and Arn, and Curt Hennig will be as beltless as they deserve.

GARY STENNES  
Rushford, MN ☐

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WWF tag titlists **DEMOLITION**—are **AX** and **SMASH** fluke champions or champions to stay?

### PLUS . . .

Why **OWEN HART** should avoid his brother **BRET HART** . . . **TERRY TAYLOR** says he knows how to reunite **THE FREEBIRDS!** . . . Memphis bounty hunters decree: Keep your money, Gilbert: "We'll destroy **JERRY LAWLER** for free!" . . . "Q & A" interview with **PAUL ELLERING** . . .

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**July 1976**/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

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**January 1977**/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

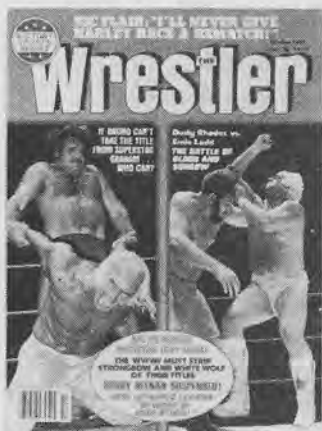
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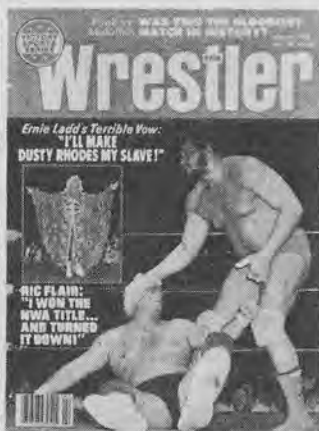
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## FEBRUARY 1979

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**April 1980**/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

**May 1980**/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

**June 1980**/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

**August 1980**/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

**September 1980**/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

**October 1980**/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

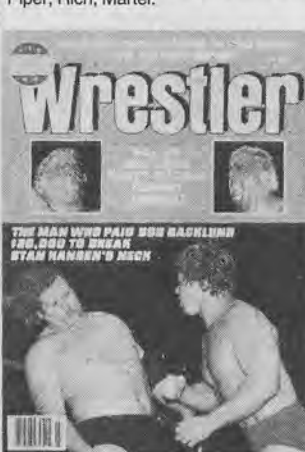
**January 1981**/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

**February 1981**/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

**March 1981**/Stories include: Rich, Samcans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

**May 1981**/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

**June 1981**/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.



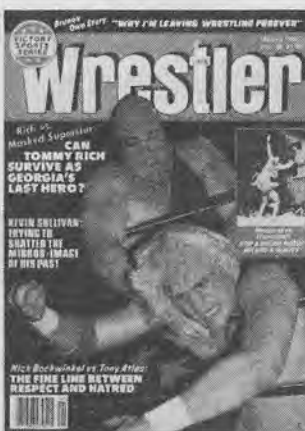
## JULY 1981

**July 1981**/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

**August 1981**/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

**October 1981**/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

**January 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.



## JANUARY 1982

**March 1982**/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

**April 1982**/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

**May 1982**/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

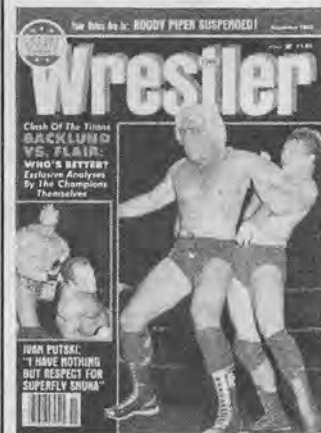
**June 1982**/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

**July 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

**August 1982**/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

**September 1982**/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

**October 1982**/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.



## NOVEMBER 1982

**November 1982**/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

**December 1982**/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

**January 1983**/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

**February 1983**/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

**April 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

**May 1983**/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

**June 1983**/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

**July 1983**/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

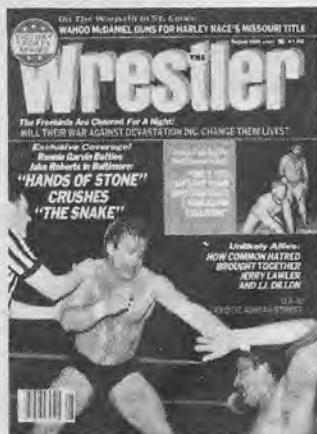
**August 1983**/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

**September 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

**October 1983**/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

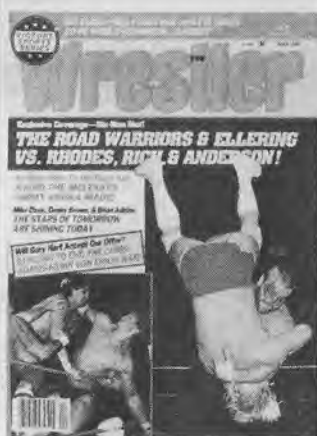


**November 1983/Stories include:** Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.  
**December 1983/Stories include:** Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.  
**January 1984/Stories include:** Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.  
**March 1984/Stories include:** Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.  
**April 1984/Stories include:** Hogan, Ellerling, Von Erich, Rhodes.  
**May 1984/Stories include:** Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.  
**June 1984/Stories include:** Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.  
**July 1984/Stories include:** Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.



#### AUGUST 1984

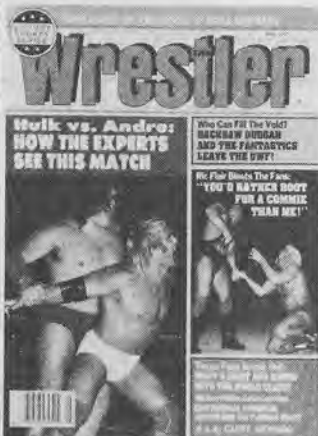
**August 1984/Stories include:** Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.  
**September 1984/Stories include:** Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.  
**October 1984/Stories include:** Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.  
**November 1984/Stories include:** Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.  
**December 1984/Stories include:** Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.  
**January 1985/Stories include:** Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.  
**February 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.  
**March 1985/Stories include:** Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.



#### APRIL 1985

**April 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.  
**May 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.  
**June 1985/Stories include:** Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.  
**July 1985/Stories include:** Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.  
**August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION!** Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.  
**September 1985/Stories include:** Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.  
**October 1985/Stories include:** Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.  
**November 1985/Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.  
**December 1985/Stories include:** Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.  
**January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue!** 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.  
**February 1986/Stories include:** Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.  
**March 1986/Stories include:** Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.  
**April 1986/Stories include:** Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.  
**May 1986/Stories include:** Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.  
**June 1986/Stories include:** Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

**July 1986/Stories include:** King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.  
**August 1986/Stories include:** Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.  
**September 1986/Stories include:** Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.  
**October 1986/Stories include:** Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.  
**November 1986/Stories include:** R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.  
**December 1986/Stories include:** Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.  
**January 1987/Stories include:** Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.  
**February 1987/Stories include:** Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.  
**March 1987/Stories include:** Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.  
**April 1987/Stories include:** Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.



#### MAY 1987

**May 1987/Stories include:** Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.  
**June 1987/Stories include:** Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.  
**July 1987/Stories include:** Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.  
**August 1987/Stories include:** Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.  
**September 1987/Stories include:** Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.  
**October 1987/Stories include:** Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

**November 1987/Stories include:** Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.  
**December 1987/Stories include:** Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.  
**January 1988/Stories include:** Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.  
**February 1988/Stories include:** Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.



#### MARCH 1988

**March 1988/Stories include:** Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.  
**April 1988/Special Issue!** Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.  
**May 1988/Stories include:** Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.  
**June 1988/Stories include:** Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.  
**July 1988/Stories include:** Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

- |                                  |                                  |                                  |                                  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 75  | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 81  | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 84  | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 87 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 76  | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 81 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 84  | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 87  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 78  | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 82  | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 86  |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 79  | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 83  | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 86  |                                  |
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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— <b>CURT HENNIG</b><br>235, Minneapolis, MN | 8— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>302, Venice Beach, CA     | 12— <b>GREG GAGNE</b><br>220, Robbinsdale, MN       |
| 2— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL | 5— <b>TED DiBIASE</b><br>247, Omaha, NE       | 9— <b>MIKE ROTUNDO</b><br>245, Syracuse, NY       | 13— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>497, Grenoble, France |
| 3— <b>STING</b><br>260, Venice Beach, CA    | 6— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>268, Chicago, IL       | 10— <b>OWEN HART</b><br>223, Calgary, Alberta     | 14— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>234, Memphis, TN         |
|   | 7— <b>TERRY TAYLOR</b><br>225, Vero Beach, FL | 11— <b>THE HONKY TONK MAN</b><br>255, Memphis, TN | 15— <b>CARLOS COLON</b><br>246, Santa Isabel, PR    |

## NWA

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN    | 4— <b>MIKE ROTUNDO</b><br>245, Syracuse, NY    | 8— <b>AL PEREZ</b><br>238, Tampa, FL            | 12— <b>RONNIE GARVIN</b><br>231, Montreal, Quebec |
| 2— <b>STING</b><br>260, Venice Beach, CA       | 5— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>275, Moscow, Russia | 9— <b>STEVE WILLIAMS</b><br>265, Norman, OK     | 13— <b>RICK STEINER</b><br>248, Detroit, MI       |
| 3— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>248, Pittsburgh, PA | 6— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>268, Chicago, IL        | 10— <b>JIM GARVIN</b><br>235, Tampa, FL         | 14— <b>RON SIMMONS</b><br>260, Perry, GA          |
|  | 7— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>236, Sweetwater, TX | 11— <b>SHANE DOUGLAS</b><br>223, Pittsburgh, PA | 15— <b>RICKY SANTANA</b><br>235, Orlando, FL      |

## AWA

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1— <b>CURT HENNIG</b><br>235, Minneapolis, MN | 4— <b>WAHOO McDANIEL</b><br>280, Midland, TX        | 8— <b>JEFF JARRETT</b><br>200, Hendersonville, TN | 12— <b>SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAI</b><br>235, Iraq          |
| 2— <b>GREG GAGNE</b><br>220, Robbinsdale, MN  | 5— <b>PAUL DIAMOND</b><br>230, Thunder Bay, Ontario | 9— <b>RICK MORTON</b><br>228, Memphis, TN         | 13— <b>BARON VON RASCHK</b><br>271, Berlin, Germany |
| 3— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>234, Memphis, TN    | 6— <b>SOLDAT USTINOV</b><br>265, Moscow, Russia     | 10— <b>RICKY RICE</b><br>230, Edina, MN           | 14— <b>BOB ORTON JR.</b><br>245, Kansas City, KS    |
|   | 7— <b>EDDIE GILBERT</b><br>222, Lexington, TN       | 11— <b>PAT TANAKA</b><br>265, Honolulu, HI        | 15— <b>THE GRAPPLER</b><br>280, parts unknown       |

## WWF

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL      | 4— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>302, Venice Beach, CA       | 8— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>280, Glens Falls, NY  | 12— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>280, Queens, NY |
| 2— <b>THE HONKY TONK MAN</b><br>255, Memphis, TN | 5— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>497, Grenoble, France  | 9— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>246, Stone Mountain, GA | 13— <b>ONE MAN GANG</b><br>468, Chicago, IL    |
| 3— <b>TED DiBIASE</b><br>247, Omaha, NE          | 6— <b>BAM BAM BIGELOW</b><br>368, Mt. Laurel, NJ    | 10— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>238, Honolulu, HI    | 14— <b>GREG VALENTINE</b><br>243, Seattle, WA  |
|  | 7— <b>BRUTUS BEEFCAKE</b><br>273, San Francisco, CA | 11— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>246, Robbinsdale, MN      | 15— <b>BRET HART</b><br>235, Calgary, Alberta  |

## MOST POPULAR

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>268, Chicago, IL          | 8— <b>THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>280, Queens, NY | 12— <b>DON MURACO</b><br>274, Sunset Beach, HI   |
| 2— <b>STING</b><br>260, Venice Beach, CA      | 5— <b>KERRY VON ERICH</b><br>260, Denton, TX     | 9— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>234, Memphis, TN        | 13— <b>GREG GAGNE</b><br>220, Robbinsdale, MN    |
| 3— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL   | 6— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>280, Glens Falls, NY | 10— <b>THE MIDNIGHT RIDER</b><br>302, Austin, TX  | 14— <b>OWEN HART</b><br>223, Calgary, Alberta    |
|   | 7— <b>MICHAEL HAYES</b><br>255, Marietta, GA     | 11— <b>KEVIN VON ERICH</b><br>235, Denton, TX     | 15— <b>CARLOS COLON</b><br>246, Santa Isabel, PR |

## MOST HATED

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>TED DiBIASE</b><br>247, Omaha, NE            | 4— <b>THE HONKY TONK MAN</b><br>255, Memphis, TN | 8— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>236, Sweetwater, TX  | 12— <b>MIKE ROTUNDO</b><br>245, Syracuse, NY   |
| 2— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>497, Grenoble, France | 5— <b>EDDIE GILBERT</b><br>222, Lexington, TN    | 9— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>246, Robbinsdale, MN     | 13— <b>TERRY GORDY</b><br>289, Chattanooga, TN |
| 3— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN        | 6— <b>CURT HENNIG</b><br>235, Minneapolis, MN    | 10— <b>ICEMAN PARSONS</b><br>245, St. Louis, MO | 14— <b>HERCULES HERNAND</b><br>255, Tampa, FL  |
|  | 7— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>248, Pittsburgh, PA   | 11— <b>TERRY TAYLOR</b><br>225, Vero Beach, FL  | 15— <b>KEVIN SULLIVAN</b><br>252, Boston, MA   |

## TAG TEAMS

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD &amp; ARN ANDERSON</b><br>NWA World tag team champions  | 6— <b>BOBBY EATON &amp; STAN LANE</b><br>No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title          | 11— <b>RICK MARTEL &amp; TITO SANTANA</b><br>No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag team title |
| 2— <b>THE ROAD WARRIORS</b><br>All-Japan Intl. tag team champions             | 7— <b>THE WARLORD &amp; THE BARBARIAN</b><br>No. 3 contenders: NWA World tag team title | 12— <b>THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS</b><br>No. 1 contenders: AWA World tag team title      |
| 3— <b>DEMOLITION</b><br>WWF World tag team champions                          | 8— <b>PAT TANAKA &amp; PAUL DIAMOND</b><br>AWA World tag team champions                 | 13— <b>KERRY &amp; KEVIN VON ERICH</b><br>World Class tag team champions                |
| 4— <b>STING &amp; LEX LUGER</b><br>No. 1 contenders: NWA World tag team title | 9— <b>STEVE &amp; SHAUN SIMPSON</b><br>Wild West tag team champions                     | 14— <b>THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS</b><br>No. 2 contenders: AWA tag team title                 |
| 5— <b>THE FANTASTICS</b><br>U.S. tag team champions                           | 10— <b>BRUCE HART &amp; BRIAN PILLMAN</b><br>Stampede International tag team champions  | 15— <b>THE BRITISH BULLDOGS</b><br>No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag team title           |



These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended April 28, 1988

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

**ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: JACK ARMSTRONG**  
(December 12, 1987; from Victor Rivera; Hawaiian Gardens, CA)

**ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PETER MAIVIA JR. & PROF. TANAKA**  
(February 26, 1988; from The Mercenaries; Universal City, CA)

**ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

**TOSHIKI KAMADA & SAMPSON FUYUKI**  
(March 9, 1988; from Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue; Yokohama, Japan)

\* **ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
(March 12, 1987; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Genichiro Tenryu; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**  
(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION: CHIGUSA NAGYO**  
(October 20, 1987; from Yukari Omori; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JAPANESE CHAMPION: YUMI OGURA**  
(January 29, 1988; from Bull Nakano; Nagoya, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

**BULL NAKANO & KUMIKO IWAMOTO**  
(February 25, 1988; tournament final over Yumko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Kawasaki, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU**  
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)

**AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE**

(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Adrian Adonis; Las Vegas, NV)

**AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI**  
(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Candi Divine; Las Vegas, NV)

**AWA WORLD CHAMPION: CURT HENNING**  
(May 2, 1987; from Nick Bockwinkel; San Francisco, CA)

**AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**  
(March 19, 1988; from The Midnight Rockers; Las Vegas, NV)

**BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: CHRIS BENOIT**  
(March 19, 1988; from Gama Singh; Calgary, Alberta)

**CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: D.J. PETERSON**  
(December 25, 1987; from Bulldog Bob Brown; St. Joseph, MO)

**CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently by Rick Patterson & Steve Ray)

**CENTRAL STATES TV CHAMPION: MASA CHONO**  
(January 1, 1988; from Mike George; Des Moines, IA)

**CWA CHAMPION: MAX PAIN**  
(February 8, 1988; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

**CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RON & DON BRUISE**  
(March 28, 1988; from Max Pain & Gary Young; Memphis, TN)

**FLORIDA CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO**  
(April 18, 1987; from Oliver Humperdink; Lakeland, FL)

**IWGP CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI**  
(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)

**IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

**KENGO KIMURA & TATSUMI FUJINAMI**  
(January 18, 1988; from Yoshiaki Fujiwara & Kazuo Yamazaki; Tokyo, Japan)

**IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HIRO HASE**  
(December 27, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)

**NWA JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NELSON ROYAL**  
(October 16, 1987; by NWA decision)

**NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

**IVAN KOLOFF, THE BARBARIAN, & THE WARLORD**  
(February 12, 1988; from Paul Ellering, Road Warrior Hawk, & Dusty Rhodes; Philadelphia, PA)

**NWA TV CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO**  
(January 26, 1988; from Nikita Koloff; Raleigh, NC)

**NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**  
(November 26, 1987; from Ronnie Garvin; Chicago, IL)

\* **NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**  
(April 20, 1988; from Lex Luger & Barry Windham; Jacksonville, FL)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE**  
(March 20, 1988; from Larry Winters; Forked River, NJ)

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER**  
(October 31, 1987; from Mike Miller; Portland, OR)

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIKE GOLDEN & THE AVALANCHE**  
(March 26, 1988; from Scott Peterson & Steve Doll; Portland, OR)

**PWF CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU**  
(March 9, 1988; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)

**PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GENICHIRO TENRYU & ASHURA HARA**  
(September 3, 1987; from Stan Hansen & Austin Idol; Nagoya, Japan)

**SOUTHEAST U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KEN WAYNE**  
(March 9, 1988; from Larry Hamilton; Hattiesburg, MS)

**STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: OWEN HART**  
(April 10, 1987; from Mahan Singh; Calgary, Alberta)

**STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

**BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN**  
(November 13, 1987; from Mahan Singh & Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)

**TENNESSEE CHAMPION: BUDDY LANDELL**  
(March 19, 1988; from Doug Furnas; Knoxville, TN)

**U.S. CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Dusty Rhodes)

\* **U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FANTASTICS**  
(April 26, 1988; from The Midnight Express; Chattanooga, TN)

**U.S.A. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE MONGOLIAN STOMPER**  
(April 1, 1988; tournament final over The Bullet; Knoxville, TN)

**WESTERN STATES CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSKO**  
(January 24, 1988; from Barry Windham; Uniondale, NY)

**WILD WEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE & SHAUN SIMPSON**  
(February 29, 1988; from John Tatum & Jack Victory; Ft. Worth, TX)

**WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: ICEMAN PARSONS**  
(March 25, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Dallas, TX)

**WORLD CLASS JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY**  
(December 25, 1987; from Shaun Simpson; Dallas, TX)

**WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS:**

**TERRY GORDY, BUDDY ROBERTS, & ICEMAN PARSONS**  
(January 4, 1988; from Matt Borne, Steve Simpson, & Chris Adams; Ft. Worth, TX)

**WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH**  
(November 25, 1987; from Brian Adias & Frank Lancaster; Shreveport, LA)

**WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: TERRY TAYLOR**  
(February 26, 1988; from Matt Borne; Dallas, TX)

\* **WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY**  
(April 8, 1988; from Steve & Shaun Simpson; Ft. Worth, TX)

\* **WORLD ORGANIZATION CHAMPION: MR. ITO**  
(April 18, 1988; tournament final over Hacksaw Higgins; Mobile, AL)

**WORLD ORGANIZATION U.S. CHAMPION: MR. OLYMPIA**  
(February 21, 1988; from Bob Holly; Pensacola, FL)

\* **WORLD ORGANIZATION WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

**RON STARR & BOB HOLLY**  
(April 18, 1988; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Pensacola, FL)

**WORLD PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI**  
(April 11, 1987; from Super Machine I; Honolulu, HI)

**WORLD PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN**  
(August 9, 1986; from Mad Max & Super Max; Honolulu, HI)

**WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: MIKE GEORGE**  
(March 17, 1988; from Masa Chono; Kansas City, KS)

**WORLD WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: GREG WOJOKOWSKI**  
(May 3, 1987; from Scott Rextesteir; Toledo, OH)

**WORLD WRESTLING ASSOCIATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

**CHRIS CARTER & CALYPSO JIM**  
(February 14, 1988; tournament final over Jerry Graham Jr. & Don Kent; Toledo, OH)

**WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: HERCULES AYALA**  
(September 25, 1987; from Tony Atlas; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

\* **WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD**  
(April 23, 1988; from Bobby Jagers & Dan Kroffat; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

\* **WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE INVADER**  
(April 23, 1988; from Tony Falk; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

**WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**  
(January 30, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

**WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.**  
(January 6, 1988; from Kareem Muhammad; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

**WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MR. POGO & KENDO NAGASAKI**  
(January 16, 1988; from The Invaders; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

\* **WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**  
(April 9, 1988; from Hercules Ayala; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

**WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER**  
(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

**WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE HONKY TONK MAN**  
(June 2, 1987; from Rick Steamboat; Buffalo, NY)

**WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE**  
(March 27, 1988; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Atlantic City, NJ)

**WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION**  
(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)

**WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL**  
(July 24, 1987; from The Fabulous Moolah; Houston, TX)

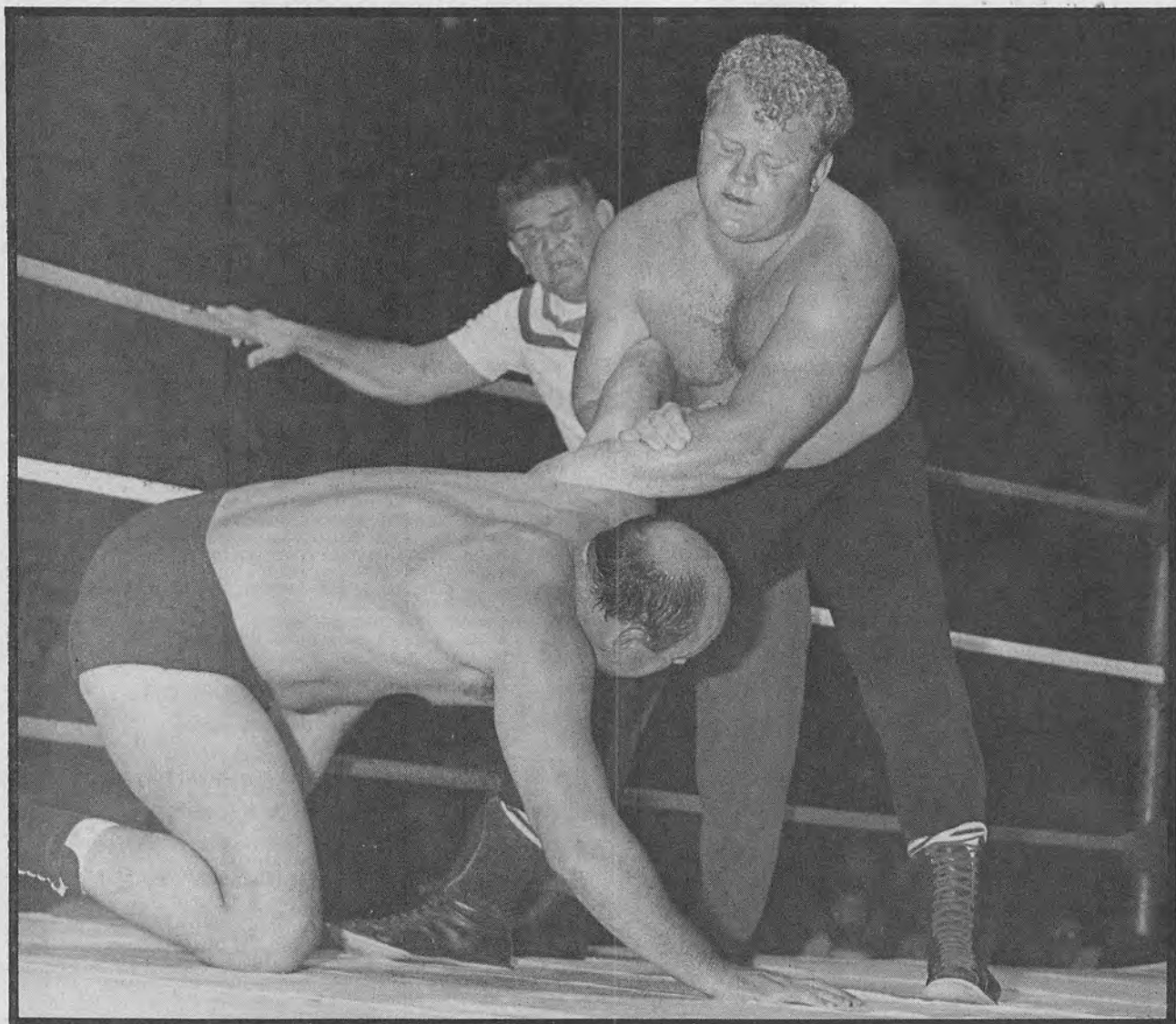
**WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE JUMPING BOMB ANGELS**  
(January 24, 1988; from Lelani Kai & Judy Martin; Hamilton, Ontario)



# ***BLAST FROM THE PAST***

## ***This Month In Wrestling History***

**“A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME”**



**VERNE GAGNE**  
**vs.**  
**LARRY HENNIG**  
**June 29, 1968**

Larry “The Ax” Hennig has the edge over AWA World champion Verne Gagne, but Gagne rebounded to break Hennig’s leg during this brutal match held in Bloomington, Minnesota. Today, this classic feud continues with Greg Gagne and current AWA World champ Curt Hennig picking up where their fathers left off.



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**Lose "pot belly."** Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a **REAL** man! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.

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One day, I discovered a secret that changed me from a timid, frightened scarecrow into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" — a "magic formula" that can help turn you, too, into a marvellous physical specimen . . . a **REAL** man from head to toe . . . a man who **STANDS OUT** in any crowd! What's my secret? "**DYNAMIC-TENSION**" — the natural method! No theory. No gadgets or contraptions. You just do as I did. Simply take the "sleeping" muscles already present inside your own body — build them up — use them every day in walking, bending over, reaching, even sitting! Almost before you know it, you're covered with a brand-new suit of beautiful, rock-hard **SOLID MUSCLE!**  
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*Charles Atlas*

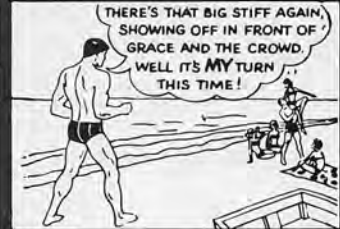
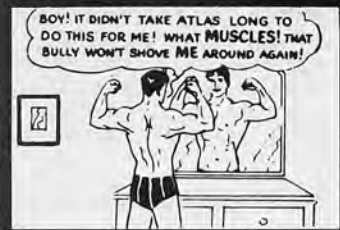


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- Ric Flair's victory over Kerry in their Japanese rematch
- Roddy Piper vs. Greg Valentine in a dog-collar match
- Ric Flair regains the NWA title from Harley Race in a bloody cage match at "Starrcade '83"
- The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Ones
- The Von Erichs vs. The Freebirds
- Junkyard Dog vs. The Missing Link
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- Dusty Rhodes vs. Tully Blanchard (cage match)
- Magnum T.A. vs. Kamala
- Jimmy Valiant vs. Paul Jones
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